

Innovative Mental Health Programs for Ohio's Youth & Young Adults in Transition

Trumbull County Youth and Young Adults In Transition: Program Description

Trumbull LifeLines, the Alcohol, Drug Addictions, and Mental Health Services Board for Trumbull County initiated conversations around the unique needs of Youth and Young Adults in Transition in the behavioral health system during the early 1990's. Those conversations have since evolved into the Trumbull County Youth and Young Adults in Transition Committee. The committee consists of members of all identified sectors working with this unique population, rather than just behavioral health providers. Represented systems include:

- Child Welfare
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Mental Health Treatment/Prevention
- Education
- Employment Services
- Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Substance Abuse Treatment/Prevention
- Parent Representative from the Family and Children First Council

The committee meets on a monthly basis to identify gaps in Trumbull County's social services system, make sure that youth ages 16-22 do not "fall through the cracks," and better manage the referral processes. So far the committee has been successful in identifying hundreds of youth in this age range, building community collaboration, and organizing training on working with Transition Aged Youth. Moving forward, the committee intends to arrange more training opportunities, increase youth involvement in the committee/community, and increase referrals to needed services. The committee recently restructured to involve youth from the mental health system in committee meetings on a bi-monthly basis. The youth's participation is utilized to gain awareness of system issues from their perspective, educate committee members of their unique challenges, and to brainstorm solutions. This committee maintains flexibility in its structure to be able to adapt to the changing needs of Youth and Young Adults in Transition.

Operational Resources

The committee has two co-chairs. The co-chairs are responsible for leading meetings, keeping minutes, and distributing information to committee members.

Financial Resources

This committee operates without any funding. All meeting attendance time and services are provided to the committee as in-kind contributions from the participating agencies.

Trumbull County Youth and Young Adults in Transition Committee

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