



Vision 21
Virginia

Linking Systems of Care
for Children and Youth

June 2016 Project Newsletter

U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime Visits Virginia

During the last week in June, a Federal grant monitor from the Office for Victims of Crime met with project staff for a site visit. The purpose of the visit was to analyze current financial reports, discuss lessons learned during the planning phase, review plans for implementation, and learn more about how Virginia has dynamically structured support for this project. The Virginia team has been leading the way in communications regarding this project and has challenged OVC to do the same. OVC is now finalizing their own one-page communications document that explains the background and purpose of Vision 21 then outlines each individual project under the Vision 21 umbrella. An OVC Vision 21 logo is in development now for all funded projects to use, if desired.

OVC is very interested in learning more about the structure of this project as it pertains to state level stakeholders and other constituents. Jack Frazier, Deputy Commissioner at the Virginia Department of Social Services, and other key stakeholders participated in one session of the visit to discuss how the project aligns with their agency goals and how they envision the project to better serve their agency and constituents.

The distinction between victimization and trauma as it pertains to this project was made. As this project continues through the first phase of implementation, project staff must ensure that “victimization” is paramount. Oftentimes, it is easy to focus more on trauma because victimization and trauma tend to parallel one another. However, for the purposes of this project, funders stress the importance of keeping the identification of victimization at the forefront.

Overall, the Virginia project received a very positive review. OVC recently disseminated information about Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care for Children and Youth to government stakeholders. They are very interested in monitoring our work and tracking measurable positive outcomes that are anticipated from this project.

June 2016 Implementation Phase Achievements:

- Project staff 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.
- Held a PAT meeting on June 9th. All screening tools were approved to move forward with the Institutional Research Board (IRB) process. Revised committee structure was also approved.
- Participated in six 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.
- Project staff participated in a two-day site visit with 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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Pilot Site Selection

Project Staff: Laurie Crawford

Staff to the project is working with partners, technical assistance providers and others to analyze and recruit the four sites where the screening tool, training module and training manual will be piloted during the implementation phase. The first two potential pilot sites have been identified; in June, the Project Manager and Project Co-Convener traveled to Charlottesville and Abingdon to have the first of three monthly meetings with service providers to discuss the project. At the June meetings, participating providers represented domestic violence programs, victim/witness, community service boards/behavioral health, child welfare, child advocacy centers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and others. Discussions between providers and project staff focused on which systems might be the best for piloting the screening tool. Discussions will continue in July and August.

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. The Committee is working on the screening tools portion of the training manual. Committee members assisted with drafting content for each section of the tool, to include guidance on how to appropriately ask each question. Each section was shared and reviewed by the full committee at its last meeting and is currently being reviewed and edited by project staff and Training and Technical Assistance providers at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. A mock training on the screening tool will be held on August 4th. All Vision 21: LSC Partner Agency Team and committee members are invited to attend and provide feedback.

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. The committee is finalizing a separate consent form that will be used with each screening participant. Committee members will then review the possibility of utilizing the existing information-sharing/authorization forms for each system. This way, redundancies will be minimized and getting clients who screen positive for victimization into adequate services will become less challenging. Once both components are finalized, the consent form and release of information/authorization to disclose protocol will be moved forward in the IRB process along with the three age-specific screening tools and training.

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. Merging pivotal members from the Policy and Organizational Assessment and Cross-Systems Mapping Committee who bring expertise and knowledge of both traditional and nontraditional services and resources, the goal of this committee is to strengthen collaboration among community partners and increase accessibility to available resources in Virginia. This committee will not only identify national, statewide and local resources currently available to child/youth crime victims and their families, but also explore gaps in existing statewide and local resources as well as non-traditional resources and support services available to crime victims and their families.