

March 2016 Project Newsletter

Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care presents at the International End Violence Against Women Conference

By working with professionals inside and outside the criminal justice system, End Violence Against Women International seeks to improve outcomes for victims and pursue accountability for their assailants with a goal to protect victims, prevent future attacks, and keep our communities safe.

Vision 21: Linking Systems of Care Project Manager, Laurie Crawford, participated in a panel presentation at the End Violence Against Women International on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Engaging Men & Boys conference in Washington, DC March 22-24, 2016. Professionals involved in the Vision 21: Linking System of Care for Children and Youth project, including Michele Robinson, Program Manager, Family Violence and Domestic Relations Department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Nicole Camp, Program Manager, Montana Board of Crime Control, Mary Spooner, PhD, Senior Manager, Public Health Division, ICF International, and Bethany Case, MSW, LICSW, Victim Justice Program Specialist, United States Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime were among panelists leading discussions on how child and family service organizations within a state can work together, and identify and serve young victims and their families.

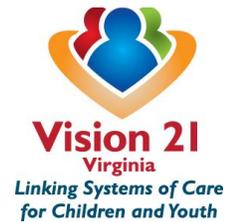
Participation in the conference serves as a timely reminder of the efforts of education, awareness, prevention, and intervention for serving youth victims and families. In particular, as we navigate through the month of April, we are reminded of multiple awareness campaigns that serve our target population: Child Abuse Prevention, Crime Victim's Rights, and Sexual Assault Awareness. Several state agencies and their constituents will host awareness events throughout the Commonwealth to build community support, increase education and awareness, and promote safe and healthy communities for all.



March 2016 Planning Phase Achievements:

- Participated in the All-Sites meeting in Reno, Nevada and highlighted project successes
- Facilitated three Pilot Site Selection webinars for interested localities
- Administered and evaluated the data from the Organizational Assessment of central office staff at our state agencies that serve the project target population
- Worked with ICF International to support their evaluation process for this project in collaboration with our own project evaluation
- Participated in seven Technical Assistance calls with NCJFCJ, OVC, and ICF International

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

The ad hoc Pilot Site Selection Committee's work is to analyze and recruit the four sites where the screening tool, training and training manual will be piloted during the first phase of implementation. This month, we held three webinars to introduce potential Pilot Sites to our project. The introduction included background information about the project, inclusion criteria, and what each locality will receive for participating in the six month Pilot process. We are seeking four localities to participate in the Pilot with at least three systems involved. All Pilot Sites will receive training from project staff and national partners, technical assistance, and concise data that specifically correlates to their population. Currently, we have two localities selected.

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. Work is now underway to develop an outline for the training manual. This includes identifying the content of the manual based on perceived needs as they relate to making sure that those administering the screening tool understand its purpose, maintain maximum fidelity while using the tool in order to collect accurate and pertinent information on possible victimization, and complete the process with little or no added trauma to the person being screened.

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. Committee members have been working with project staff and technical assistance providers from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) to review the current tool and develop a scoring criterion. The Committee and project staff is well aware that the screening tool, formally named the Virginia Victimization Screen, and accompanying training content will evolve and develop as we receive feedback from the Partner Agency Team and Pilot Sites.

Organization & Policy Analysis

Project Staff: Monique Williams

The Organization and Policy Analysis Committee focuses on state-level understanding of practices and policies that influence the identification and treatment of child and youth victims. The Organization and Policy Analysis Committee has concluded its work in developing and evaluating data for the Commonwealth of Virginia Organizational Assessment, which was administered to the central office staff who support programs and services for children, youth, and transitioning young adults. The committee will transition to analyzing policies, guidance, and standards provided by state agencies. Policies and code sections to be analyzed will be identified and prioritized after a review of findings from all of the data collected to explore overall themes from all deliverables during the planning phase.