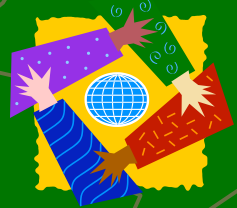


2005 National Leadership Summit on Improving Results



*Partnerships for Youth Transition:
A Local Mental Health/Transition
Community of Practice in Pittsburgh, PA*

Washington, D.C. - June, 2005

Communities of Practice: A Conceptual Framework

“Groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their understanding and knowledge of this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.”

Communities of Practice: A Variety of Activities

- Problem-solving
- Requests for Information
- Seeking Experience
- Reusing Assets
- Mapping Knowledge
- Coordination and Synergy
- Discussing Developments
- Documentation Projects
- Visits
- Identifying Gaps

The Foundation in PA

Mandatory Requirement in Legislation

IDEA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Four state agencies charged with developing a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the requirements of IDEA '97 to improve the coordination of services to children across the commonwealth

Training Committee

- Program staff from the four agencies planned and carried out regional trainings to discuss MOU requirements and to educate cross-system audience of agency mandates, services and procedures – Resource Manual

IDEA Memorandum of Understanding: Interagency Team

Dept. of Education

- Bureau of Special Education
- Bureau of Career & Technical Education

Dept. of Labor & Industry

- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Bureau of Workforce Investment

Dept. of Public Welfare

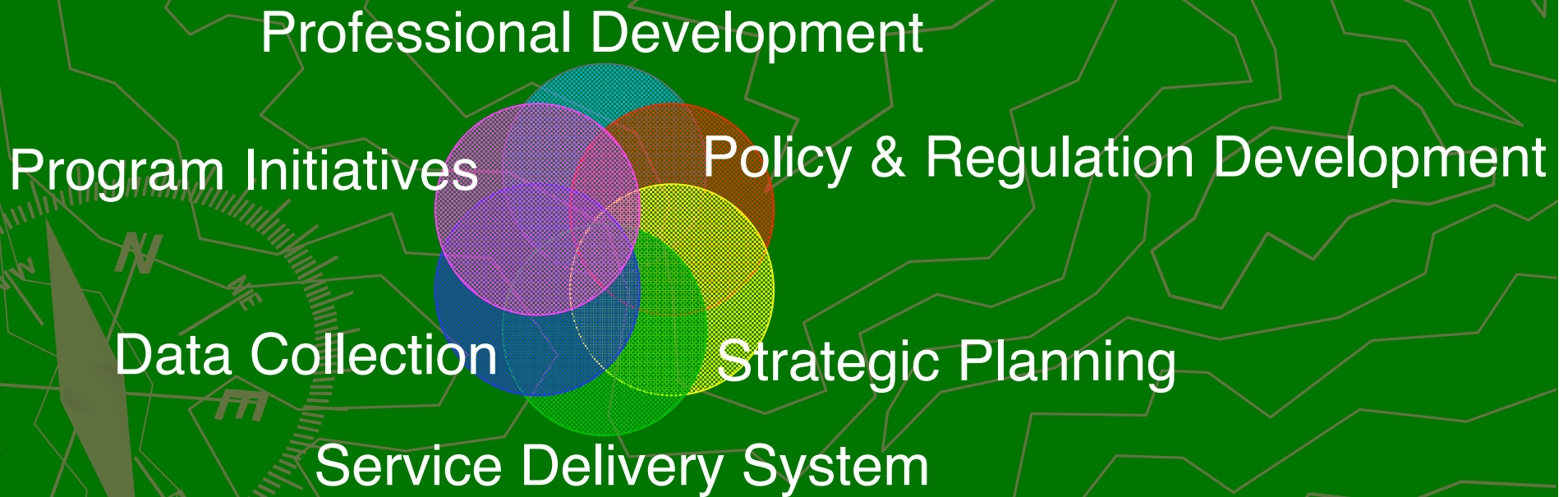
- Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
- Office of Mental Retardation
- Office of Children, Youth & Families
- Office of Medical Assistance Program

Dept. of Health

- Bureau of Family Health
- Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs

*(Youth/Young Adults with Disabilities &
Family/Caregivers)*

The Shift: From Isolated, Single Agency Activities to Cross-Systems Efforts in Transition



PA Community on Transition (PACT)

Vision

— All Pennsylvania youth and young adults with disabilities will successfully transition to the role of productive, participating, adult citizens. Youth will be empowered to recognize their talents, strengths, and voice and have equal access to resources that promote full participation in the communities of their choice.

PACT State Leadership Team

Mission

To build and support sustainable community partnerships that create opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities to transition smoothly from secondary education to the post-secondary outcomes of competitive employment; education, training and life-long learning; community participation; and healthy lifestyles. The foundation of our work depends on steadfast leadership, cross-system policy development, and fidelity to evidence-based, quality driven practices.⁸

Our National Connection: The IDEA Partnership

- Interagency Transition Community of Practice
- National Community of Practice on Collaborative School Behavioral Health
- Partnerships with Youth Transition Projects

PA Community on Transition Practice Groups

— To realize our vision and mission, Practice Groups are being created to provide the structure to focus our work as a community. The community helps the practice groups to focus on the big picture; the practice groups keep the community focused on the many dimensions of the issue.

PA Community on Transition: Mental Health Practice Group

The purpose of the Mental Health Practice Group is to promote the academic achievement and well-being of all Pennsylvania youth and young adults through the development of a comprehensive, cross-community, behavioral health support system. The effort will emphasize the utilization of evidence-based school mental health services in conjunction with existing school-wide and community mental health programs and services... This group will also explore and promote mechanisms to effectively assist youth and young adults in the smooth transition into needed adult services and supports..... a work in progress

PA Community on Transition: Communication Network and Support Structure

— State to Local

— Local to Local

— Local to State

— State to State

— National to State



Partnerships for Youth Transition (PYT): A Local Mental Health/Transition Community of Practice in Pittsburgh, PA

Allegheny County Department of Human Services
Office of Behavioral Health

PYT empowers youth, consumers, families, and communities to manage and advocate for their needs and realize their dreams. The goal of this system of care is to help young adults with mental health needs achieve their full potential by providing access to education, support, and relevant resources so that they may live, love, learn, work, play, and recover.

PYT: Community of Practice Partners

- School Districts
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit
- Allegheny County DHS
 - Office of Behavioral Health
 - Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - MH/MR Base Service Units
- Community Collaboratives
- Youth
- Families
- Juvenile Justice
- Children & Youth Services
- Substance Abuse
- Community, including faith-based

PYT Service Population

- Youth/Young Adults ages 14-21(25)
- Program capacity each site: 20
- Serious Emotional Disturbance/Severe Mental Illness
- Impaired Functioning in Home/School/Community/Job

PYT – Core Values

- Consumer/Family Focused & Driven
- Safety (Consumer, Family, Community)
- Community-based/Least Restrictive
- Culturally Competent
- Outcome Based
- Educational-Vocational

Focus on Transition to Adult Life

- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Health Insurance
- Physical Health
- Daily Living Skills
- Financial Planning

Two Partner School Districts

— Sto-Rox – 15 enrolled (12 female, 3 male)

- Age range – 17-20
- 20 total enrollees since March 2004

— Wilkinsburg – 12 enrolled (7 female, 5 male)

- Age range – 14 to 21
- 20 total enrollees since March 2004

PYT – Outcome Study Data Collected

- Demographics
- Risk Factors
- Program Satisfaction
- Sexuality
- Perceptions of Opportunities
- Exposure to Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Educational/Vocational History
- Living Situation History
- Transitional Life Events
- Cultural Competency
- Diagnosis
- Functioning
- Service History
- Delinquency

PYT Capacity Building/Future Activities

- Common Service Plan – “One Plan”
- Transition Fair
- Professional Development
- Community Asset Mapping
- Youth/Family Engagement
- Enhance Community Connections
- Progress Monitoring

Contact Information

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