

A Community of Practice on Young Adults with SMHC in Northeast Massachusetts

Definition of a CoP: A Community of Practice (CoP) brings together people who "share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on a regular basis*"

Transition age youth & young adults (TAYYA) with serious mental health conditions (SMHC) traverse many systems and involve many stakeholders including:

- Child mental health
- Adult mental health
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Child welfare
- Secondary & post-secondary education
- TAYYA
- Family members
- Advocates

Forming the CoP

A CoP for them can include all these groups

A respected "Champion" can bring this diverse group of stakeholders together, in this a case a regional Director of Mental Health Services

Communication **CoPs can interact virtually** and in person This CoP did both

Goals Can Motivate A CoP

X NIX NA

Goals of the CoP should come from the members brainstorming ideas

Our Goal Create tipsheets for

young adults

*Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, 2000

Regular meeting involvement & review by TAYYA in the content of the tip sheets helped insure their relevancy to the



intended users

Results 6 CoP tip sheets have been downloaded

thousands of times and are among the most popular tip sheets of the **Transitions RTC**

CoPs Need Support

Specific resources are needed to foster and maintain a CoP, in this case the Transitions RTC

Need help creating your own community of practice? The Transitions RTC can provide technical assistance in creating a CoP for TAYYA in your locale



Visit us online at: http://labs.umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC



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