

Hartford AHS District Youth in Transition Program Update
April 21, 2010

The Clara Martin Center is pleased to report that Mark Mitchell began in March as the Youth in Transition (YIT) Peer Navigator. Mark comes to the Agency with many years of experience working with young adults and community members in residential settings. Less than a month into the position, Mark is quickly making connections with several community partners in the Hartford AHS District, including the Department of Corrections, Diversion, the Junction, the Haven, Bradford Teen Association and Regional Alternative Program, to name a few. Mark is also beginning to engage young adults in the White River Junction and Bradford communities and attended several community dinners in his initial attempt to identify the best settings in which to engage at-risk transitional age youth.

The Hartford YIT steering committee is also developing the regional vision for transitional age youth services. The steering committee, which meets on Monday, April 26, will begin planning a larger gathering of stakeholders across the Hartford AHS District that will include, among others, partners in the courts, law enforcement, religious and grassroots organizations, healthcare providers and education.

Now that the Mark is in place we are looking to hire 3 youth peer mentors who would work approximately 4 hours a week, out of the 3 hubs of our AHS district, Randolph, Bradford, and White River Junction. The Clara Martin Center is reviewing its pilot of youth peer mentor services and will begin reviewing internal guidelines for the recruitment, training, oversight and development of youth peer mentors on April 28 prior to expanding the service to the White River Junction and Bradford communities.

The Clara Martin Center was also awarded a grant as a VCRHYP agency for a .75 FTE to assist young adults across the Hartford AHS District to complete certification courses and secure employment in the “green energy” field. The Clara Martin Center—through its JOBS Program—also received a grant this month through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to offer Randolph-area JOBS participants summer work experiences through a partnership with Gifford Medical Center. As an expansion of last summer’s pilot program between Lamoille County Diversion and Copley Hospital, Clara Martin Center is excited to begin planning this summer’s program and expects to work with as many as eight young adults who will receive stipends over a five-week period to train and work in different areas of the healthcare field in collaboration with Gifford Medical Center.

As services for young adults continues to develop, key members of the Agency’s Transitional Age Youth Services team are presenting Clara Martin Center’s model of service delivery at the Working with Youth Conference on May 21 in Killington. The presentation, entitled *What We Have Learned: Randolph’s Experience After 2 ½ Years of Providing TAY Services*, will review the genesis of services for at-risk young adults in the Randolph area and will discuss programmatic milestones and service delivery to date. Staff are also working with hopefully at least 12 young adults in total from White River Junction, Bradford, and Randolph who are planning on attending the May 7 Young Adult Voice Movement Conference in Bolton.

