




## **Behavioral Health Youth Network and Regional Youth Services Centers – Overview** **August 2015 v1**









**Vision:** The *West Virginia Behavioral Health Youth Service Network* will provide individualized strength based services, in a more integrated environment incorporating evidence based practices and effective cross-system collaboration including integrated management of service delivery and cost. This approach comprises a spectrum of effective community based services and supports that are organized in a coordinated network that provides meaningful partnerships with families and youth improving the youth's functioning in the home, school and community promoting recovery and resilience.

### **Mission of Regional Youth Service Centers:**

-  Create a centralized information and referral network to serve the target population
-  Conduct local needs assessments to identify behavioral health resources for the target population
-  Develop, provide for, and coordinate a full continuum of care (prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery services) for the target population utilizing a data driven decision model to include the needs assessment information.

**Target Population:** The target population for the Regional Youth Service Centers (R-YSCs) is youth ages 12-17, young adults ages 18-24 experiencing mental health and substance use and/or co-occurring substance use and mental health issues and their families/primary caregivers.

**Strategies:** The system will be coordinated through six (6) Regional Youth Service Centers (R-YSCs) that will implement a cross-system, collaborative approach to youth service delivery, both at a regional and state level, creating a statewide *Behavioral Health Youth Service Network*. The project design for the R-YSC is a single facility or coordinated partnering of multiple facilities to provide a variety of treatment and support options, as well as serving as a “center of excellence” to promote a high quality workforce.

-  A Single Point of Entry will improve access and referral to appropriate levels of care
-  Every region will provide a full continuum of services for youth and families in-state regardless of payer source
-  Consistent Assessment / Diagnostic Tools utilizing electronic records will enhance service delivery and sharing of information between multiple systems
-  Training and Technical Assistance for Youth Serving Organizations will improve clinical capacity and ensure quality services
-  State and regional collaborative partnerships will increase engagement, improve referral mechanisms and access needed and appropriate community supports
-  An increase in the capacity to serve transitioning youth (adolescents and young adults 17-24) will offer a “last best chance” to decrease unemployment, homelessness, and improve behavioral health and health outcomes for this population
-  Youth Service Centers will be developed in an inviting location that will decrease stigma and meet the needs of youth and their families through increased hours of operation
-  An increase in the number of peer/recovery support groups for youth will assist in maintaining sobriety and community and social connectedness

Referral & Outreach capacity will be established to provide for a 24-hour call center for individuals seeking behavioral health assistance for West Virginia youth and young adults.

Anyone that contacts the 24-hour call center will be offered education on behavioral health issues and information on community based service options in their region, as well as a facilitated referral to an appropriate level of care based on the individuals need in coordination with regional centers. The ROC will be a resource that helps address the top two identified barriers for families seeking services: access and navigation.

Contacts – please see attached