**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.

**Goals Can Motivate A CoP**

Goals of the CoP should come from the members brainstorming ideas

Our Goal: Create tipsheets for young adults

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](http://labs.umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC)

*Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, 2000*