Effective Clinical Supervision for Young Adult Therapeutic Peer Mentors (YA TPMs) Part 2

3.30.16
The Transitions RTC aims to improve the supports for youth and young adults, ages 14-30, with serious mental health conditions who are trying to successfully complete their schooling and training and move into rewarding work lives. We are located at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA, Department of Psychiatry, Systems & Psychosocial Advances Research Center. Visit us at:

http://www.umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC

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Meet your Facilitator:
Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW

- Clinical social worker who does research to address social problems & advocate for social justice: especially access to effective support services for at-risk youth!
- Knowledge generator & translator within the field of transition age youth mental health: practice to research & research to practice!
  - Thresholds Youth Services Research
  - UMASS Research & Training Center
  - NIDILRR Switzer Fellow

As a young adult, moved across the country on a whim, thrived in retail & discovered social work thru 2 of my friends’ moms!
Purpose of the Training Series

- Being a young adult therapeutic peer mentor (YA TPM) comes with unique challenges. Effective supervision & support are key to YA TPM on-the-job success!

- **To increase competency** of clinical supervisors in their supervision & support of YA TPMs

- **Family Partner role** is strong at many providers! Build on their expertise & experience!

- **Training series based on:**
  - Stakeholder input in Massachusetts
  - Our experience with young adult peer mentors
  - Consultation with adult & young adult peer support providers
  - Our working knowledge of best-practices & literature review
Webinar Series Structure

- 2 webinar series – 90 minutes each
- 60 minutes of Material
- 30 minutes of Q & A

Submit your questions via gotowebinar while I’m talking! The UMASS RTC team will ask them without using your name.
Webinar 2 Topics

- Relational Boundaries – A parallel process between 1) Clinical Supervisors & YA TPMs & 2) YA TPMs & YA clients
- Building Psychological Capital in YA TPMs thru Self-Care
- Beyond Empathy: Understanding the Difference between You (client) & Me (YA TPM)
- Accommodations for YA TPMs
- Supporting YA TPMs in Developing Resiliency Stories & Strategic Sharing
- Evaluating the Integration & Success of YA TPMs Process
- The Benefits to Being a Clinical Supervisor of YA TPMs
Prevention. Integrating YA TPMs

- Role Clarification – early on in process that is shared widely.
- Do NOT expect YA TPMs to be solely responsible for educating staff on their role.
- Initial training for all staff & training as part of new staff orientation
- Be aware that the likelihood that integrating YA TPMs will be challenging. Provide venue to process & address struggles.
Intervention. Integrating YA TPMs

- YA TPMs must have access & involvement in agency activities akin to colleagues
- Ensure agency staff:
  - Partner with YA TPMs
  - Mentor & teach YA TPMs
  - Learn from YA TPMs
- Create open lines for communication:
  - For staff concerns about YA TPM
  - For YA TPMs concerns about staff & agency
Conflict Resolution.
Your Job = Coach & Advocate

- Emphasize partnership, teamwork, & idea of “colleagues”
- Value the different ways of thinking (on both sides) – explore the problem, but be solution focused & timely.
- Ask about & listen to YA TPMs & staff concerns. Get them to start talking to one another.
- Don’t make it about individuals, look at the systems that are fostering stigma, exclusion, & misunderstanding.
- Get supervision about this. Talk with your family partners! Talk with your supervisor!

There are no evidence-based practices for TAY & all continue to struggle with engaging TAY in treatment.
Relational Boundaries: A parallel Process between:
1) Clinical Supervisors & YA TPMs & 2) YA TPMs & YA Clients
Relationships for YA TPM Success

Relationship between Supervisor & YA TPM

Relationships between YA TPMs & YA clients
Peer Support Relational Processes

- Trust
- Authenticity
- Empathy
- Companionship
- Collaboration

(Adapted from Spencer, 2006)
Mutuality is where it’s at!

- Embrace “mutuality” in peer support – healing can occur through providing support! It is what sets “peer support” apart from “professional” support!

“With intentional peer support we share our stories in ways that help others consider how their beliefs and assumptions have created their reality, understanding, choices, and even their relationships. Although we may have had similar experiences, we listen for how people have learned to tell that particular story and ask questions that create space for reflection and awareness. **We explain that we are not there to provide “help,” but rather to contribute to a conversation and a process where we actively challenge each other, and where “recovery” becomes a mutual, dynamic relational process and outcome.**” (From Maine DMH)

Use Reflective Supervision Practices

- **Collaboration.** Both agree to participate in a respectful, mutual relationship where both learn & grow.
  - Either may be the expert on a topic being discussed.
  - This is a non-hierarchical relationship.

- **Regular.** Mutually agreed upon time that is dedicated & protected for Supervision.

- **Reflective.** Focus on YA TPMs observations of & interactions with YA clients; the emotional experiences of this relationships & parallel relationships (e.g., YA-TMP & supervisor).
  - Mutuality is inherent in this process!
  - Gain self-awareness thru the process.

Reference: Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership Reflective Practice Guide
The clarity between who is the “helper” & who is the “receiver” of help will vary from one YA client-YA TPM relationship to the next.

Know the “mutuality” limits – define these clearly through agency policies.

Clinical supervision necessary to coach, support &, at times, manage YA PRW-YA client relationships.

Importance of “fairness” when working with multiple YA Clients.

Communication Best-Practices must be Established at your Agency:
- In-person
- Texting
- Email
- Social media & “friending”
Maintaining Healthy Relational Boundaries

- Identify & discuss healthy relationships based on a strong working alliance between YA TPM & YA client
- Excellent Example of Activity to explore boundaries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Always Okay</th>
<th>Never Okay</th>
<th>Sometimes Okay / When??</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Keep your attraction to your client secret from supervisor/team</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Keep client's attraction to you secret from supervisor/team</td>
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<td>3. Keep boundary concerns secret from supervisor/team</td>
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<td>4. Bend the rules for an individual client</td>
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<td>5. Share religious/spiritual beliefs with client</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Advocate for a client despite your team/agency's opposing view</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Share after-hours social time with a client</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Bring a client to your home for any reason</td>
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<td>9. Share a meal with a client</td>
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<td>10. Engage in common interest with client</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Spend time alone with client in his/her apartment</td>
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<td>12. Loan money to a client</td>
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The Complexity of Confidentiality

- Ensure YA TPMs understand & comply with HIPAA
  - Comprehensive review in orientation!
  - Follow-up on confidentiality standards of practice at least quarterly

- **NO SECRETS ALLOWED** between YA TPM & YA client – supervisor & team must be informed! YA TPM must explain this to YA client.

- What YA TPMs share with their YA clients is their choice. Clients are not bound to HIPAA confidentiality rules.
# Outreach as a Parallel Process

## Process 1: Supervisor with YA TPMs

- Celebrate small wins to prevent discouragement. YA TPMs will feel that they are “not getting thru” or “not making progress” with YA clients.
- Reach out to your YA TPMs immediately if their behavior changes at work. Find out what is going on & how you can help.

## Process 2: YA TPMs with YA clients

- Celebrate **changes** in YA TPM-YA client relationships.
- When YA clients start feeling & doing better, some disengage from services only to return in crisis. Help your YA TPMs to not take the “disappearing act” personally.
- Support YA TPM outreach efforts that are healthy based on the relationship between YA TPM & YA Client
Building Psychological Capital in YA TPMs
Bolster YA TPM Psychological Capital

- Psychological capital is a positive psychological state of being characterized by (Luthans et al, 2007)...
- Self-efficacy
- Optimism
- Perseverance
- Hopefulness
- Resilience

- Psychological capital is a protective factor.
- Psychological capital can be developed.

Created by Alexander Smith from Noun Project
Essential Topics in YA TPM Supervision

- On the job performance
- Skill development
- Wellness
- Relationships
- Career Development

Self-care is essential for on-the-job wellness of YA TPMs!

Fosters On-the-job Resiliency!
Resiliency is a pattern of adaptation. Self-care is ever-evolving.

“A good bubble bath can take you a little ways, but long-term self-care is not about luxury and consumerism. It’s not about escape.”
- Christine Boyle, Activist

Merriam-Webster Dictionary: Resilience is the ability to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens; able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed.

Developmental Definition: Resilience is a pattern of positive adaptation to past or current life adversity. It is a description of a pattern, not a personality trait (Masten & Coatsworth, 1998)
Defining “Self-Care”

“Self-care is possessing enough self-awareness to invoke repeated patterns of being that harmoniously correct the behaviors of over-functioning for others while under-functioning for yourself.”

-LaShaun Middlebrooks Collier

**TIPS**

- Addressing “things” that get in the way of practicing self-care.
- Multi-level approach to self-care is necessary.
- Although it’s called “self-care,” which implies “individual,” it’s really a systematic effort!
Why Boost YA TPM Psychological Capital thru an emphasis on self-care?

It’s a very tall order to expect YA TPMs to maintain balance in their work & personal life 100% to serve as role models to YA clients.

- Help TPMs to recognize:
  - We all have “off-days”
  - Their signs of personal stress & distress
- Develop individualized self-care plans & check-in about this care plan regularly.
- Supervisors must role model & practice self-care
- Encourage breaks & use personal/vacation time-off
- Private space for staff to decompress

TIP Rather than get details of distress, ask what self-care practice a YA TPM can utilize to address the situation & what needs to be in place to support that practice.
A refrigerator list is a start.

**Ideas for Self-Care!**

- Try and create as predictable a routine as possible for yourself
- Listen to music that you find calming or energizing
- Take a hot shower or bath
- Make homemade bread or pretzels (or anything that requires kneading)
- Talk to a friend on the phone
- Draw a picture or doodle
- Go on a date with your significant other or a friend
- Make a special meal for yourself
- Give yourself a special treat
- Light some candles and turn off the lights
- Go for a walk, run or other aerobic activity
- Roughhouse with your kids
- Sing along to music
- Make a craft item
- Make a “To Do List” to prioritize and organize your time

**More Ideas for Self-Care!**

- Tell yourself one thing you like about yourself every day
- Tell yourself one thing you’re grateful for every day
- Keep a journal
- Eat more fruits and vegetables
- Be friendly to at least one person every day
- Laugh at least once a day
- Wrap yourself in a huge, soft blanket, then read a book or watch TV
- While you talk, walk slowly, squeeze something soft (like your new stress balloon!), play with your keys, etc.
- Buy something that smells good to you (like strawberry bubble bath) and smell it whenever you feel stressed
- If you’re a perfectionist, allow yourself at least one mistake per day
- Stretch or do yoga
- Sit in the sun with your eyes closed for a few minutes
- Take slow, deep breaths
Engagement in Self-Care across multiple domains is the goal.

- **Intellectual**: something that makes us think (e.g., puzzles, reading, listening to a lecture, processing new ideas)
- **Contextual**: what surrounds us (e.g., visiting a beautiful park, de-cluttering)
- **Interactional**: socializing with others (e.g., gatherings, dates)
- **Physical**: challenging yourself physically (e.g., exercise, sweat)
- **Sensual**: stimulates the 5 senses: taste, touch, sight, sound, & smell) (e.g., light a candle, eat something delicious)
- **Emotional**: stimulates emotions & makes you feel good (e.g., film)
- **Nutritional**: stimulating your body in a healthy way (e.g., fruit vs. candy)
- **Spiritual**: Something which nourishes your soul. (e.g., church, yoga)
Reflection & Self-Care

- Normalize how working with YA’s with SMHC (& the many other life challenges that go along with SMHC) can impact YA TPM well-being. (Emotions are a beautiful thing!)

- Share your personal story of resiliency.

- Healthy vs. Unhealthy “Venting”

- Value therapy!

Self-Care Plan Examples:

University of Buffalo Self-Care Starter Kit:
http://socialwork.buffalo.edu/resources/self-care-starter-kit.html

Student Self-care Plan

Recovery & Wellness Lifestyle Plan (by Copeland):
http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA-3718/SMA-3718.pdf

Australian Self-Care Plan:
http://au.professionals.reachout.com/developing-a-self-care-plan#Activity
Helpful YA TPM Supervision Resources

- Reflective Practice Guide

- Peers in Action – Self-Care Plan

- Building Blocks to Peer Program Success

- SAMHSA Peer Support Whole Health & Wellness
Planning for the Next Opportunity

- YA TPMs will not stay young adults forever.

- Organizations must focus on development of YA PSWs so:
  - Transition to adult peer roles or non-peer roles within your agency
  - Transition to employment at a new organization or in a different field

- Supervision meetings must systematically include:
  - Planning for future employment roles & placing value on education attainment to fulfill career aspirations
  - Review professional employment & relationship termination
Beyond Empathy: Understanding the Difference between You (client) & Me (YA TPM)
“She understands where I am coming from and I understand where she is coming from.”

(Participant in Thresholds IPS Adaptation Study)
Expectations of YA TPMs

- Share life experiences of overcoming struggles
- Display genuine understanding
- Build strong relational bonds – true partnership
- Role-model, inspire & motivate

These are challenging!

Less separation between private & public life.

Need for consistent self-reflection & self-care to ensure YA TPM safety
Achieving Empathy: Developing a young person’s capacity to:

- Shift Focus from self to YA client (while still using personal experiences).
- Balance sharing of personal experiences with:
  1) Active listening
  2) Emotional expression
  3) Directives
Exploring Beliefs & Increasing Self-Awareness…

- YA TPMs need to find their voice & identity as a YA TPM. This is a process!

- Consider your own training & how learning about oneself was emphasized – triggers, beliefs, biases, etc.

- Need to work with TMPs to recognize their biases. This can be challenging, but will arise in supervision all the time!
Make No Assumptions

- Displaying **genuine empathy** is key for successful YA TPMs.
- Too much empathy or over-identification with a YA client may hurt the YA TPM-YA client relationship.
- Help YA TPMs to not assume that they “know where a young person is coming from” **narrowly** based on their own experience.
- Dissimilar backgrounds & lifestyles may allow for more genuine expression of **the desire to understand** where someone is coming from, which can be very powerful!
Feeling like I’m Making Progress

- **Feeling successful is key!** Need to find concrete ways to ensure that YA TPMs feel like their YA clients are making progress.

- Support the YA TPM to **clarify the desired outcomes** for specific activities in order to assess activity effectiveness of their work with YA clients.

- Real opportunity to **co-develop goals** – need to make sure goals are feasible & attainable!
Partnering on Goal Planning & Evaluation

Plan

1. Activity Goal (Individualized YA Client Goal that the YA PRW is working with YA client on)

2. Activity Description (where, when, who, how, what are you doing with your YA client?)

3. Goal Achievement Indicator(s). How will the YA TPM & YA client observe that the activity was successful in making progress towards goals?

This example Goal Planning & Evaluation is based on Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Worksheet: (http://www.ihi.org/resources/pages/tools/plandostudyactworksheet.aspx)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-up</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reality Check! Quality of the Activity (what actually happened with the activity) &amp; YA Client Response to activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Goal Achievement! (Describe measured results based on goal achievement indicators in Planning Part 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. What is the next activity to partner with the YA client on based on what we’ve learned thru this activity?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This example Goal Planning & Evaluation is based on Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Worksheet: (http://www.ihi.org/resources/pages/tools/plandostudyactworksheet.aspx)
Tips for Partnering thru Understanding

- YAs are extra aware of/sensitive to “being judged.” Coach on limiting emotional expression in responding & tweaking based on individual clients.

- Advocating & being heard on the multidisciplinary team may be frustrating & discouraging at times. Process this with your YA TPM!

- YA clients will make assumptions about YA TPMs that YA TPMs may pick up on. Explore these especially when YA TPM limits their disclosure! Explore why!
Accommodations for YA TPMs
Avoiding Shame thru Increasing Awareness of Accommodation Practices

- Need to educate & train staff on the American Disabilities Act (ADA) & the concept of reasonable accommodations, including: how specifically to request them & how to respond to a request.

- Some YA PRWs would rather stop showing up to work instead of discussing on-the-job struggles.

- YA TPMs must understand that discussing, requesting, & negotiating accommodations are not only for their personal on-the-job success, but also an experience that they can share with their clients.
ADA Reasonable Accommodations

- **Reasonable Accommodations**: modifications or adjustments to ordinary business operations toward supporting a *qualified* employee with a disability perform *essential* job functions productively, efficiently, & with self-satisfaction.

- **Key Assessment features**: “reasonable” & “undue hardship”
  - **Reasonableness**: Is the suggested accommodation reasonable?
  - **Undue Hardship**: Will the suggested accommodation put *Undue Hardship* on the organization (productivity, quality, impact on other staff)?
Accommodations are a PROCESS!

- Interactive dialogue between YA TPM, supervisor, & 3rd party
- One size does not fit all
- Generate multiple solutions
- Agreement is established & **written down**

**Questions to Foster Discussion:**

- Why is the accommodation being requested? Or suggested?
- What is the likelihood that the accommodation(s) will be effective? How will we know they are effective?
- How long will the accommodation(s) last? When will the impact be reviewed?
- What will the short- & long-term impact of the accommodation(s) be?
- What is the relative cost/burden to the employer?
- What accommodation(s) are less burdensome & likely to be effective?
- What has worked here in the past for TPMs?
- What has worked in the past for *this* TPM?
Common Reasonable Accommodations for YA TPMs

- Flexible scheduling of work hours to accommodate appointments, work/school, child/elderly care responsibilities
- Extra training & check-ins
- More intensive individualized supervision to divide large assignments into smaller steps
- Not working with all clients or participating in all activities
- Reduction of paperwork requirements
- Reduction of distractions in the workplace
- Using public transit instead of driving with clients
- Safety accommodations, e.g., not meeting alone with a YA client
Supporting YA TPMs in Developing Resiliency Stories & Strategic Sharing
Strategic Storytelling

- Strategic sharing is an important tool that YA TPMs can use with their YA clients.

- Storytelling is an art & comes with risks.

- My principles as a peer mentor supervisor:
  - Stories are dynamic, not static.
  - What is triggering today might not be tomorrow & vice versa.
  - Don’t be afraid. Yes, clinical supervisor can mirror narrative therapy.
  - Unintended consequences of sharing are real – be ready for them!
  - Reflection on storytelling is necessary!
Resources for Strategic Sharing


- Strategic Sharing: Telling your story in a way that is meaningful, effective, and safe. Casey Family Programs. Accessible at: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/download/StrategicSharing.pdf
Step 1: Choose your...

- **Purpose of the Sharing**
  - What do you hope to achieve by sharing this?
  - Why am I sharing this? Helpful to me? Helpful to client? Helpful to agency?

- **Content of Sharing**
  - What are the key elements to your story?
  - What details might you keep private?
  - How much background/set-up is necessary to the story?
  - How traumatic is the story?
  - Do the details align with the agency’s image? Your image?

Step 2: Connect with your…

❖ Audience
  • Who is the audience? How are they likely respond to your story?
  • Will the audience share this experience? Why or why not?
  • How will you tell this story differently depending on the audience?

❖ Purpose
  • Will your purpose of sharing the story resonate with the audience’s purpose of hearing your story?
  • How will the hearing of the story make the audience feel?
  • What impact will the story have on the working alliance?

Step 3: Claim the...

- Meaning & Significance of Sharing
  - Explain the personal meaning of your experience when telling your story; don’t let others interpret this for you.

- Emotions Felt thru Telling Your Story
  - What emotions occur when you share your story? When they occur, name them concretely when telling your story.

- Process of Sharing
  - Explain the rationale when you start to tell your story & stipulate what you hope the response will be to your sharing the story.

Practice, practice, practice. Use supervision time for storytelling at least on a quarterly basis. Examples of story prompts:

- Write about an experience in your life that was funny or absurd.
- What have you learned about yourself in the last year? How did you come to know this?
- Describe a situation that inspired you to change.
- How did you resolve a conflict with [    ]?
- Write about a time when you effectively coped with a challenging situation.
- What happened when you told [   ] about your mental illness? How did you handle this?

Share stories in group supervision; ask peers what their response is to the story!

Being a YA TPM is so much more than simply telling your story:

- **Active listening:** Unleash the power of non-judgmental open-ended responses!
- **Simple ways to express genuine interest:** “lean in” & “follow-up”
- Motivational Interviewing – next slide!
Layer in Motivational Interviewing

- **Asking Permission:** “Do you mind if we talk about [insert topic]?”

- **Open-ended Questions:** “What’s happened since we last met? What was that like for you? What makes you think this needs to change?”

- **Normalizing:** “I’ve struggled with this & friends of mine have too.”

- **Reflective Listening:** “It sounds like…” “What I hear your saying…”

- **Evoke Change Talk:** “What would you like to see different about your current situation?” “What makes you think needs to change?” “What will happen if the situation doesn’t change?”

Excellent MI resource: [http://www.nova.edu/gsc/forms/mi_rationale_techniques.pdf](http://www.nova.edu/gsc/forms/mi_rationale_techniques.pdf)
YA TPM Disclosure Permanency

- Websites with images, quotes, & videos **help to engage** YA TPMs
- **Ensure YA TPM understand Risks** - What goes on the internet may stay on the internet.
  - **Develop consent form** – YA TPMs need to be informed.
  - **Discuss regularly** – YA TPMs need space to process this.
  - **Be Flexible** - YA TPMs may change their mind about having their info associated with a particular organization or cause.

**Best-Practice**

Have agency YA TPM photos, quotes, & videos online for a fixed amount of time to:

1. **Allow multiple YA TPMs the opportunity to be in the spotlight at the agency**
2. **Limit the time that a YA TPM’s name, image, & personal experiences are available online & associated with the agency**
Evaluating the Integration & Success of YA TPMs

- Need for demonstration of YA TPM impact & process
- Develop a logic model! Partner with YA TPMs & YA clients to determine “outcomes.”
- Measure/track outcomes in the simplest way possible:
  - Checking-in with YA TPMs: Highs & Lows each week
  - Reviewing minutes from steering committee
  - Review of goal progress planning documents
  - YA Client Satisfaction survey with YA TPM provided support
  - Any outcomes that are regularly entered into electronic health record that are meaningful in your context
The Benefits to Being a Clinical Supervisor of YA TPMs

- YA TPMs will inspire you.
- It’s a real opportunity to mentor.
- You are part of a young person’s development.
- Exposure to YA in recovery – it’s an ever-evolving process
- Real opportunity to change agency culture
- Opportunity to change our approach & start engaging YA clients in treatment.
Thank you!

Questions?
Comments?

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Created by Brenna Giessen from Noun Project
References & Resources

- Motivational Interviewing: http://www.nova.edu/gsc/forms/mi_rationale_techniques.pdf
- YouthMove: http://www.youthmovenational.org/youth-peer-to-peer.html
- Portland State RTC – Achieve My Plan Mentoring Project
- Strategic Sharing: Telling your story in a way that is meaningful, effective, and safe. Casey Family Programs. Accessible at: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/download/StrategicSharing.pdf
- University of Buffalo Self-Care Starter Kit: http://socialwork.buffalo.edu/resources/self-care-starter-kit.html
- Australian Self-Care Plan: http://au.professionals.reachout.com/developing-a-self-care-plan#Activity