System and policy considerations for strong career launches in young adults with psychiatric disabilities.
Portland’s answer to employment supports

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HhP23M53Yc
Young adults need educational and career support services that are developmentally appropriate or tailored to developmental stage.

Little evidence of effectiveness of supported education services on either adults or young adults.

Good evidence of the effectiveness of IPS for mature adults, very little evidence for young adults.

Mature adulthood starts at age 36.
What are the system considerations and policy issues?
Are young adults being served in adult systems?

- Estimates of 6%–7% of non-institutionalized young adults have a serious mental health challenge
- 25–30% mild or moderate mental illness during past year (NSDUH 2010–2011, GAO 2008)
- Point in time estimate 13% of young adults have a psychiatric disorder. (Copeland et al. 2011)
Are young adults under-represented in adult services?

- Study in one state
  - 21% of general adult population between 18–25 yrs
  - 6.7% of the mental health service population between 18–25 (Fisher et al. 2011)

Most states have the data sets to compute this kind of benchmark.
What is the availability age-appropriate services?

Survey of each state’s adult mental health system

- 49% of states offered any age-tailored services
- 10% of states offered age-tailored vocational support
- 0 offered age-tailored educational support (2006 survey)

(Davis, Geller & Hunt, 2006)
What is the availability of age-appropriate services?

Three states have made statewide effort to improve services for young adults with psychiatric disabilities.

- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Maryland

(GA0 Report, 2008)
What is the availability of age-appropriate services?

- IPS in standard form gets good outcome in mature adults, IPS not broadly available

- Vocational rehabilitation mandated to provide transition support through IDEA, wide disparity of intensity, quality.

- Statewide effort in Vermont, Jump on Board for Success (JOBS)

- New interventions in development and testing.
Research regarding the impact of offering age-appropriate services.

- Does offering age-appropriate educational and career development support increase sustained access to services for young adults?
- Does provision of this type of service reduce service needs at later ages?
- What is the impact in terms of system costs overall?
What are the barriers to availability of age-appropriate services?

National study of administrators in the adult mental health system

- Insufficient funding to do anything special for this small group (63%)
- No specific funding available (39%)
- Lack of leadership focused on young adults (56%)
- Issue just not a priority (51%)
- No individual or group clamoring for a change (44%)

(Davis & Hunt, 2005)
Barriers to availability of age-appropriate services—part 2.

- Difficult to fund vocational supports because hard to get Medicaid reimbursement
- Few vocational supports for adults of any age
- Age group isn’t a priority, hasn’t gotten any traction.
- Adult consumer groups don’t advocate for issues important to young adults.
- General mental health services are available to all adults.
Research regarding the implementation of offering these services

- What are the current systemic barriers and facilitators to offering age-appropriate services?
- What will it take to overcome these barriers?
- How do barriers vary by system level, by funding mechanism and other system factors?
- Does increased contact and collaboration between child and adult mental health services result in greater implementation of age-appropriate services?
Transition between systems

- Young adults may be involved with both child and adult systems at same time.
- May experience abrupt change in service provider and eligibility
- May have to be reassessed for benefits
- Entitlements in child system that are not available in adult systems.
What have we tried?

- Partnership for Youth Transition and Emerging Adult Initiative (SAMHSA funded)
- Young Adult Service Division (CT)
- Young Adult Services (MD)
What have we tried?

- Involving young adults in adult peer-operated centers (MD)
- Youth Transition Demonstration Project (SSA)
- Disability benefit programs that include incentives for participating in vocational programs (international)
What are some overarching system and policy issues?

- Income support for young adults with psychiatric disabilities (SSI, SSDI)
- How important is the availability of health care benefits provided by Medicaid? To whom?
- What is the role of eligibility criteria in including or excluding young adults
- What is the role of young adults in planning and evaluating services and policies?
Do national, state and local level policies which reflect the input of young adults and their families result in greater system change and more positive outcomes?

How is the process of policy change and implementation affected when young adults and their families are meaningfully involved?

To what extent do policies that are designed to support young persons in both system planning and in planning their own services result in better outcomes?
Thank You