Summary of Responses to: System and Policy Considerations for Strong Career Launches in Young Adults”

Transitions RTC: State of the Science Meeting
Sept 2013

Prepared by:
Marianne Farkas
Boston University, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation
Responding panel felt that strengths of the paper included:

- Identifying core issues (e.g., lack of availability of services; lack of inter-system communication)
- Providing examples of projects that worked well
- Identification of important research topics that need further exploration
Responding panel felt that the paper would be strengthened by:

- **Defining target population and its implications more specifically/more expansively**
  - Defining diagnostic groups included/excluded
  - Defining ethnic and gender breakdown relative to points being made
  - Defining rationale for age range used/need for developmental focus and cross-cultural applicability

- Adding those involved in systems other than MH and VR who deal with employment & education
- Individuals with co-occurring disorders?
Responding panel felt that the paper would be strengthened by:

- **Addressing assumptions and/or overall framework upon which conclusions were based**
  - Discuss assumptions (e.g., unified adult mh system? “the” system to enter; unified children’s system to exit? Issue of what is “age appropriate” and why? Over 30 get better services? young people should get them? Services in children’s system are age appropriate? )
Responding panel felt that the paper would be strengthened by:

- **Addressing assumptions and/or overall framework upon which conclusions were based:**
  - Tie paper to “Pathways for Youth Strategic Plan”
  - Examine possibility of changing paradigm for adult services—rather than integration
Responding panel felt that the paper would be strengthened by:

- **Exploring additional topics related to employment topics** -
  - eg disincentives to work;
  - implications of ACA;
  - potential role of DOL;
  - role of consumer operated programs;
  - role of disability wide organizations;
  - role of private insurance;
  - place of rigorous research in promoting examples;
  - explore international examples for applicability)
Possible additional research topics

Examples:
- Rigorous research on TIP model
- Long term outcomes of young adults who do compared to those who do not gain/opt for access to adult mh/disability services
- Impact of providing age appropriate services in terms of system costs
- Impact of input of young adults & families on policies relative to system change and/or improvement in education and employment outcomes
- Incentives for making system change; identifying roles for who should / could most effectively make system level change