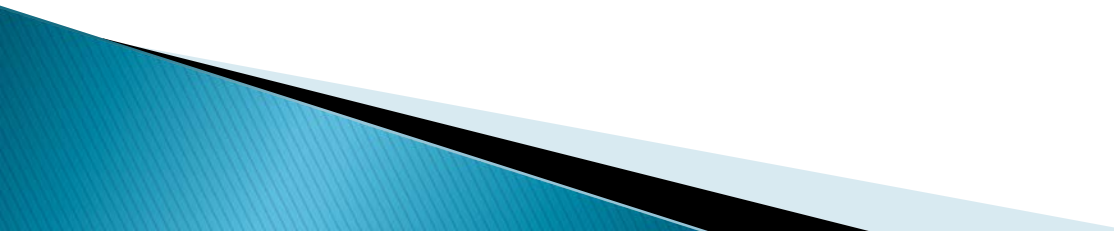# System and policy considerations for strong career launches in young adults with psychiatric disabilities.

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Jim Wotring, Lacy Kendrick Burk,
Lauren Grimes, Theresa King,
Steve Reeder.

Portland's answer to employment supports
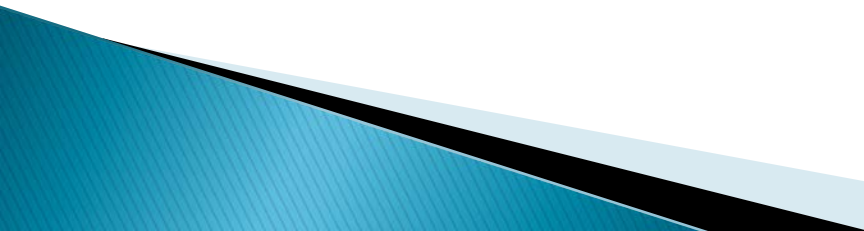
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HhP23M53Yc

Themes from Day 1

- 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)
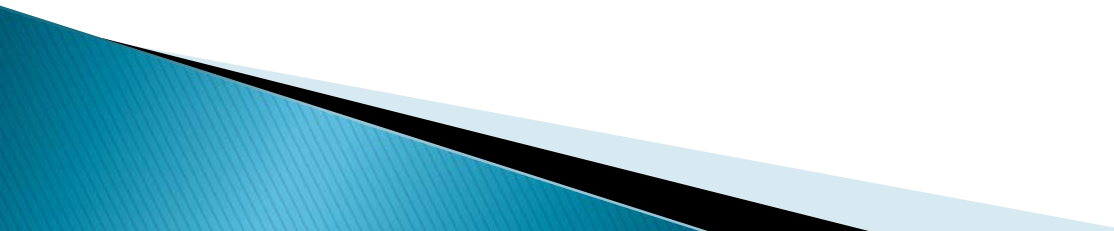
(Davis, Geller & Hunt, 2006)

What is the availability of age-appropriate services?

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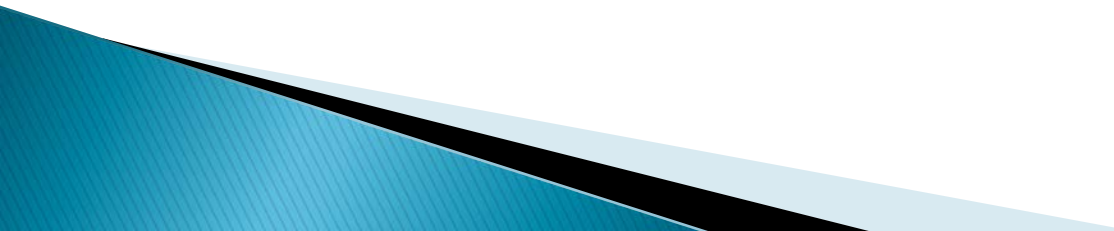
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Maryland

(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?
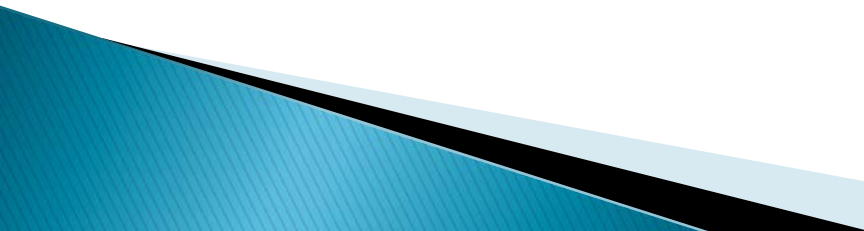
- What is the impact in terms of system costs overall?

What are the barriers to availability of age-appropriate services?

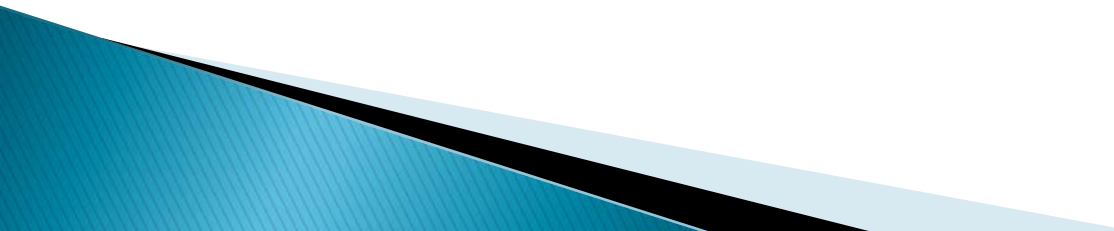National study of administrators in the adult mental health system

- 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%)
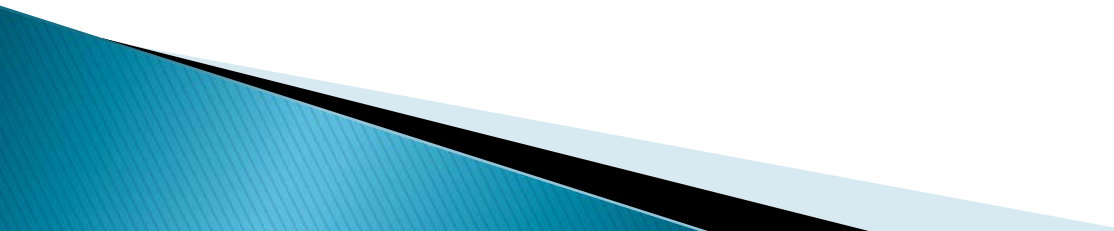- No individual or group clamoring for a change (44%)

(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.
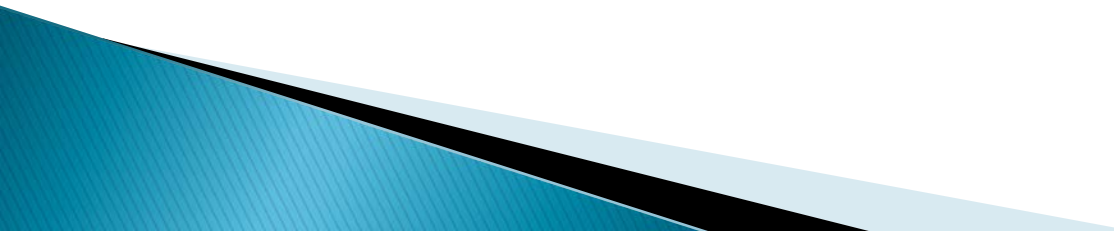- General mental health services are available to all adults.

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?
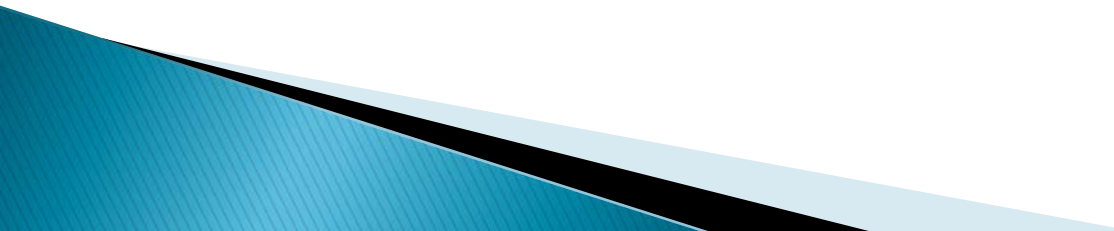
Transition between systems

- 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
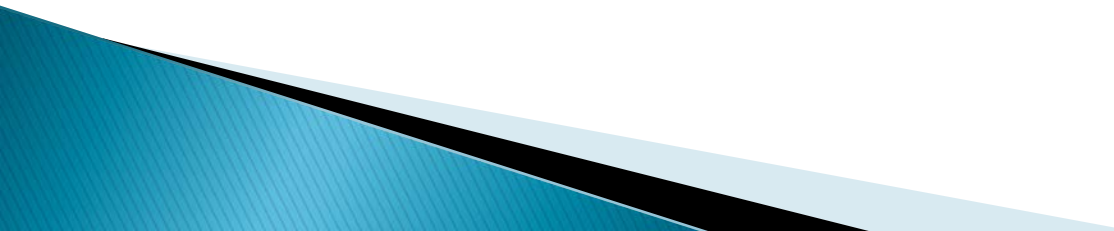- Entitlements in child system that are not available in adult systems.

What have we tried?

- Partnership for Youth Transition and Emerging Adult Initiative (SAMHSA funded)

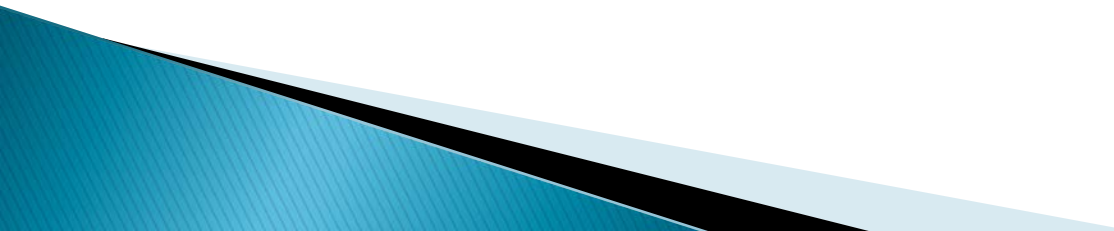- Young Adult Service Division (CT)

- 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?

Research regarding the impact of involving young adults and their families in system change

- 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