



Allegheny County System of Care Initiative

Creating Effective Approaches
for
Youth Transitioning to Adulthood

System of Care Initiative (SOCI) – 3 Programs

Allegheny County Department of Human Services

Office of Behavioral Health

Community Connections for Families (CCF)

Partnership for Youth Transition (PYT)

Starting Early Together (SET)



SOCI Service Description

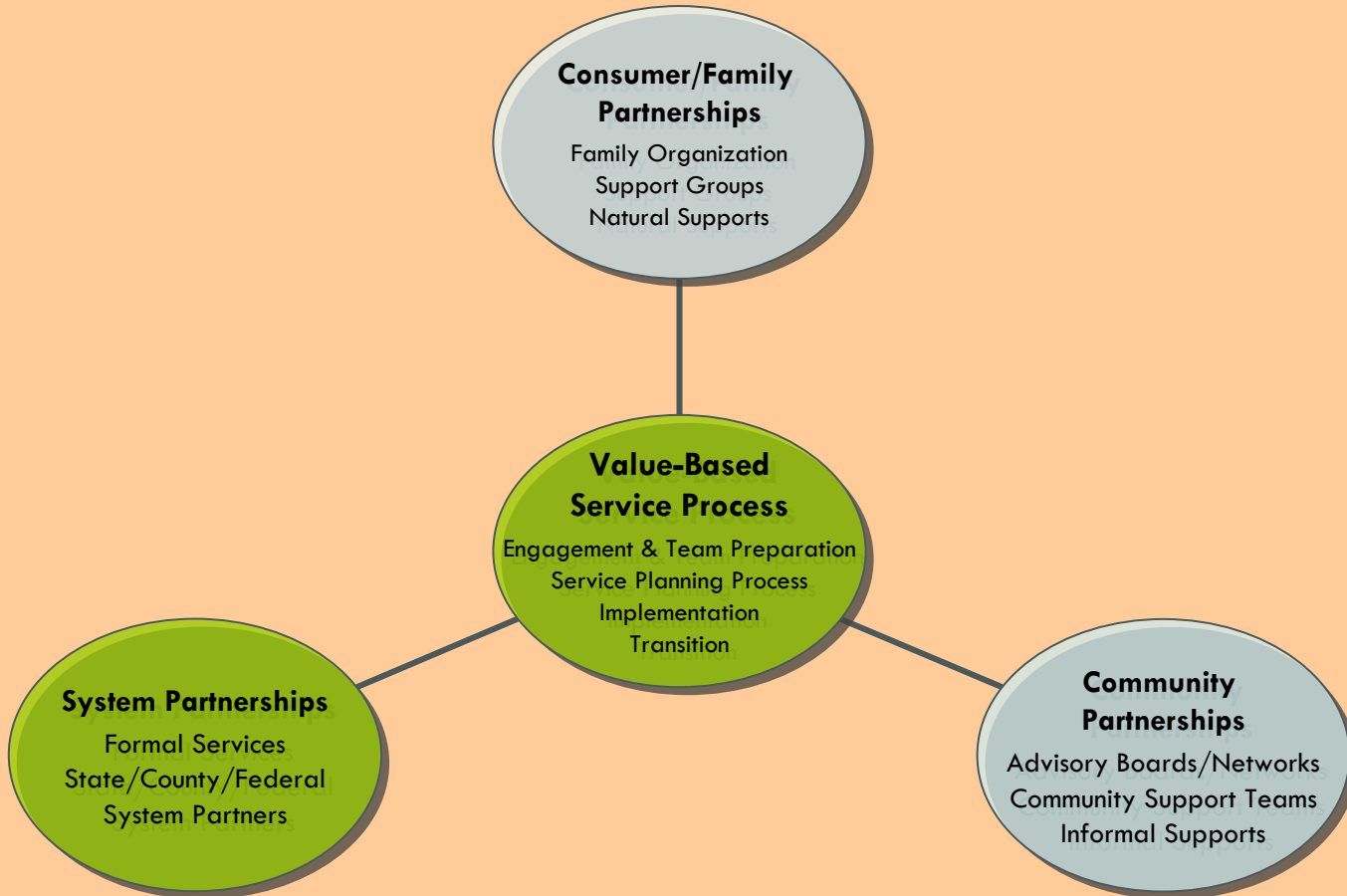
SOCI provides intensive service/support planning and coordination for children, youth, and young adults with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) or Serious Mental Illness (SMI), ensuring that those services are:

- **Consumer/Family Driven**
- **Strength-based**
- **Individualized**
- **Culturally Competent**

The service/support plans incorporate a blend of formal and informal supports and resources designed to meet the consumers' identified needs and work toward reaching their dreams.

System of Care Values

Continuous Quality Improvement





Allegheny County PYT

PYT empowers youth/young adults, consumers, families, and communities to manage and advocate for their needs and realize their dreams.

The goal of this system is to help young adults with mental health needs to achieve their full potential by providing access to education, support, and relevant resources so that they may live, love, learn, work, play, and recover.

Two Partner Communities

- Selected by application from existing CCF sites
 - Significant risk factors, but many rich in resources
 - Need for capacity-building and infrastructure coordination
 - Sto-Rox
 - Wilkinsburg



PYT Service Population



- Youth & Young Adults ages 14-21 (age out at 25)
- Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) /
Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
- Multi-System Involvement
- Functional Impairment affecting Home, School, Work, or
Community life

PYT Demographics

- Gender
 - 38% Male
 - 62% Female
- Race
 - 58% African American
 - 25% Caucasian
 - 15% Bi-racial
- Diagnosis (66% have more than one MH Diagnosis)
 - 63% have Mood Disorder
 - 37% have ADHD/ADD
- Average Age – 17years



PYT Risks and Resilience

○ Risks and Exposure to Trauma

- 59% have a parent with a mental illness
- 24% have been addicted to drugs and/or alcohol
- 44% have been arrested
- 33% have experienced abuse

○ Resilient


- 72% believe they will have a good job
- 69% believe they will graduate from college
- 86% believe they will have a good relationship w/their children
- 88% believe they will earn a good living



Transitioning: What does it mean?

- **Change**
- **Evolution**
 - Development
 - Progression
 - Growth
- **Move**
- **Be in Motion**
- **Progress**
- **Alteration**





How does Allegheny County
PYT support youth
transitioning to adulthood?



System of Care Elements

- Young Adult Involvement and Participation
- Community Empowerment, Development, and Organization
- Cultural Competency
- Informal Supports and Resources
- Continuous Quality Improvement





Young Adult Involvement and Participation

- Young Adults have participated in all aspects of program development
 - Young-Adult Professional Positions at administrative and service-delivery levels
 - Consumer/Family and Community Review
 - Community Advisory Board – 51% Young Adult/Family
 - Youth Development Funds
 - Leadership Opportunities:
 - Conferences
 - State Advisory Committees



Emphasis on Community Empowerment, Development, and Organization

- Offices are located in a natural community setting
- Staff have been hired from the community and remain involved
- Community hiring process
- Community Support Team – “It takes a village”
- Community Advisory Boards



Cultural Competency

- Support Groups & Youth Activities
- Strengths, Needs, and Culture Discovery
- Young Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (YANSA)
- Service Plans
- Highest referral source is caregiver/self-referral
- Consumer Satisfaction



Informal Supports and Resources

- "Family" as defined by the Young Adult
- Parents, Grandparents, Extended Family
- Friends
- Religious Community
- Other local community organizations
- Peer Supportive Networks
 - **Y.O.U.** ~ The Youth Outreach Union

Youth Outreach Union

"It is the mission of the Youth Outreach Union to utilize the strengths and experiences of its youth leaders, within the mental health system, to assure that present and future generations, within Allegheny County, get the info and support needed to become successful adults."





Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

- Track consistency of service delivery with mission and values
- Accountability
 - Young Adults/Families
 - Staff
 - Funders
- Asks: *Are we doing what we said we'd do?*
- Performance Based Contract



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