The Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) demonstration grant was awarded to the D.C. Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) in November 2016. The grant focus is to identify Transitional Age Youth (TAY) between the ages of 16 and 25 (generally transitioning from the child system to the adult system) who have a co-occurring disorder i.e. intellectual disability and mental illness, with a history of trauma.

Working with the Georgetown University’s Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (GU-UCEDD), the project goals were the Development and Identification of a Multi-Risk Screening Tool; System Education and Training; Collaboration; Technical Assistance; and Evaluation. The TTI project committee members – DBH, D.C. Department of Disability Services (DDS), Child and Family Services Administration (CFSA) – engaged with other partners, service provider agencies and stakeholders such as Health Services for Children with Special Needs (HSCSN) and D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) to strengthen cross-agency collaboration.

The TTI project committee worked on building a core leadership team consisting of managers and supervisor and identified staff at their respective agencies and programs to identify candidates and to complete the screening tool.

DBH contracted with GU-UCEDD to work with the TTI project to develop a training curriculum. Additionally, the committee scheduled meetings with GU-UCEDD to discuss next steps. The TTI project had specific timelines for Development of multi-risk screening tool; Training of provider agencies in administering the screening tool; Screening of individuals by provider agencies; and Creation of coordinated transition plans. These timelines were delayed because of the procurement process challenges.
Ongoing Project Activities After Grant Period:

- The trauma screening tool was developed in May 2018, with the first training session taking place May 14th for DBH-internal staff and service providers, followed by an information session on May 21st to provide information on the screening tool for stakeholders not expected to administer the tool. The second and third training sessions occurred on May 21st and in June 2018. A fourth training session was scheduled for August 16th, specifically for ACT and CBI providers who have clients on their caseloads who meet the criteria for the target population. To date, forty-two (42) individuals have been trained on the screening tool, with another ten (10) scheduled for August 16th.

- Georgetown University is providing subject-matter expertise on TAY with intellectual disabilities and trauma history. The goal is to have fifty (50) TAY screened and to identify twenty (20) that score positive for trauma. Georgetown has received fourteen (14) completed screenings to date, and is in the process of providing collaborative consultations with the providers working with the individuals.

Benefit of the 2017 TTI Project:

- In summary, the overall goal of this project helped to shift the culture of the District’s System of Care (SOC) supporting people living with dual diagnosis to reflect a more inclusive responsiveness to the holistic needs of the client. That culture shift allowed agencies to take ownership and believe that they can treat persons living with dual diagnosis through the current system and services in the community, and will inform the future of practice for the District.

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