



**VERMONT COALITION
OF RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAMS**

FY16 ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

WELCOME

FY16 was a year of transitions for the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. In July 2015, a new Assistant Director (me!) was hired and in September, long-time Executive Director, Calvin Smith, stepped away for other opportunities and I became the Interim ED. Calvin brought his amazing relationship building skills, creative approaches, and commitment to youth to the coalition and his shoes were hard to fill. In December, Kelly Walsh joined the team as interim Assistant Director and in June 2016, she left to pursue a Master's degree. Though her time with us was short, she left her mark in many ways, including spearheading the redesign of our Coalition website (<http://www.vcrhyp.org>).

Through the shifting staffing, the Coalition's strength provided solid ground:

- The Board met monthly and held a two-day retreat in June of 2016 to create some space for visioning and beginning to re-define our outcomes.
- The Best Practice Committee, comprised of youth care workers in RHY programs across the state, met every other month and began a new form of peer support through case presentations which really enhanced this peer-learning forum.
- VCRHYP held trainings on trauma informed care and recognizing and responding to domestic violence.
- We held our first Legislative Advocacy Day in April 2016 at the Statehouse, informing law makers of our services and resources and talking about the issues that impact youth who are disconnected from their families and houseless.

Throughout the year, VCRHYP was in the midst of some big transitions with data management. During FY16, we underwent a transition into the federal Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) from our own, proprietary database. While the transition will ultimately create data that will be more consistent and comparable with our national partners, the transition presented challenges. In an effort to preserve as much of our longitudinal data as possible, we attempted a transfer of our old data into the new system; about 75% of our FY16 data was transferred, but data integrity was affected greatly by errors in communication between the two systems. We worked to clean it up as much as possible, boosting our confidence in the numbers, but as a result of this major transition, our FY16 data is incomplete. Below we present our data to the best of our ability.

We thank you for taking the time to read our report and learn about VCRHYP. We know that one homeless youth is one too many and we look forward to continuing our work to address the root causes of youth homelessness and support youth in crisis.

Sincerely;
Bethany Pombar
Interim Director

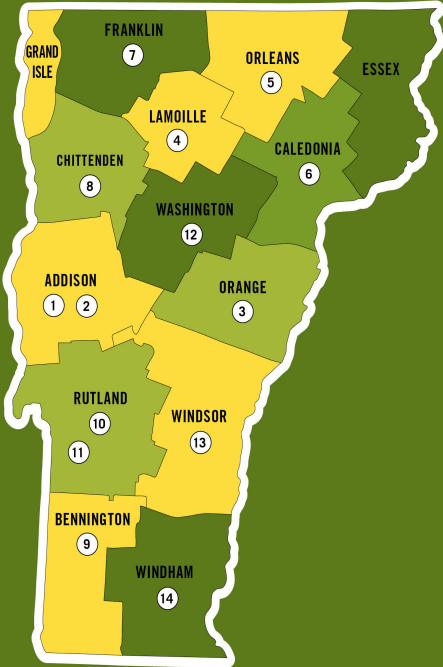
ABOUT THE COALITION

VCRHYP creates a safety net for runaway, homeless and disconnected youth through a network of programs that reaches across the state, ensuring that young people, ages 12-22, from Brattleboro to Newport, have a place to go when they have nowhere else to turn.

The Coalition is comprised of 14 member agencies, who support youth in their local community, and the Statewide office, located in Montpelier with the Washington County Youth Service Bureau, which provides VCRHYP with fiscal oversight and support.

The Coalition provides two major programs, Basic Center Program (BCP), and Transitional Living Program (TLP). BCP's goal is to support youth 12-18 who are disconnected or in crisis with their families and who are in insecure or unstable housing. Youth Care workers work with youth and their families to provide immediate safety and achieve family reunification. TLP's work with youth up to age 22 who are working towards building and maintaining independent living skills. In the data below, you will see programmatic results for each program.

OUR MEMBER AGENCIES



The map displays Vermont's 14 counties, each color-coded and numbered to correspond with the list of member agencies. The counties and their agency numbers are: Grand Isle (1), Franklin (7), Orleans (5), Essex (6), Lamoille (4), Chittenden (8), Caledonia (6), Washington (12), Addison (1, 2), Orange (3), Rutland (10), Windsor (13), Bennington (9), and Windham (14).

1. Addison County Parent Child Center, MIDDLEBURY
2. Counseling Service of Addison County, MIDDLEBURY
3. Clara Martin Center, RANDOLPH
4. Lamoille Family Center, MORRISVILLE
5. Northeast Kingdom Community Action, NEWPORT
6. Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, ST. JOHNSBURY
7. Northwestern Counseling & Support Services, ST. ALBANS
8. Spectrum Youth & Family Services, BURLINGTON
9. United Counseling Service of Bennington County, BENNINGTON
10. Vermont Achievement Center, RUTLAND
11. Rutland County Parent Child Center, RUTLAND
12. Washington County Youth Service Bureau Boys & Girls Club, MONTELIER
13. Windsor County Youth Services, LUDLOW
14. Youth Services, Inc., BRATTLEBORO

VCRHYP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tammy Austin, *Clara Martin Center, Randolph*
Donna Bailey, *Addison County Parent Child Center, Middlebury*
Russell Bradbury-Carlin, *Youth Services, Inc., Brattleboro*
Jeff Durkee, *Vermont Achievement Center, Rutland*
Leslie Ferrer, *Spectrum Youth & Family Services, Burlington*
Jackie Hanlon, *Winsor County Youth Services, Ludlow*
Caprice Hover, *Rutland County Parent Child Center, Rutland*
Cheryl Huntley, *Counseling Service of Addison County, Middlebury*
Scott Johnson, *Lamoille Family Center, Morrisville*
Danielle Lindley, *Northwestern Counseling & Support Services, St. Albans*
Lorna Mattern, *United Counseling Service of Bennington County, Bennington*
Kathy Metras, *Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Newport*
Kreig Pinkham, *Washington County Youth Service Bureau/Boys & Girls Club, Montpelier*
Connie Sandahl, *Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, St. Johnsbury*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FY16	
<i>Total Funding: \$2,944,240</i>	
Medicaid reimbursements for Global Commitment to Healthcare	\$2,273,702
Federal Grant for Transitional Living Programs	\$400,000
Federal Grant for Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs	\$199,176
Vermont OEO Emergency Shelter Grant	\$22,000
Federal Grant for Pregnancy Prevention	\$49,362
<i>Total Expenditures: \$2,944,240</i>	
Safe Housing & Crisis Intervention Services	\$1,235,539
Transitional Living Programs	\$1,329,588
Pregnancy Prevention	\$45,300
Administrative Supports & Youth Care Worker Trainings	\$333,813

SERVICES PROVIDED BY MEMBER AGENCIES

The way our member agencies tracked the services they provided changed as a result of our database transition. Although this data is incomplete, we still feel it is worth highlighting the different types of services provided for young people in our programs.

The chart below shows the percentage of the youth served by VCRHYP member agencies that were recorded as having received specific types of services in the new database. Services were either provided directly by the member agency or by a community partner that case managers/counselors helped the youth connect with. It is possible to track a wide range of services in the new database and we look forward to having more data to report on in our next annual report.

Services Provided	% Receiving
Basic Needs (including food, clothing, etc.)	59%
Life Skills Education	15%
Counseling Services	11%
Parenting Education and Expectant/New Parent Assistance	5%
Community Service Programs or Service Learning	4%
Support Groups	4%

CRITICAL ISSUES AT ENTRY

Our member agencies collect information at program entry from youth and families about what critical issues they are facing. Youth and families self-report what they consider to be their own critical issues and staff members identify additional issues they observe. This information helps to tell the story of what is going on in the lives of youth and families at the time they seek services from VCRHYP.

Critical Issue Reported at Intake	% Reporting
Household dynamics	28%
Insufficient income of guardians to support youth	15%
Active military parent/guardian of youth	none
Incarcerated parent/guardian of youth	1%
<i>Issues Specific to the Youth</i>	
Sexual orientation/gender identity	2%
Housing issues	51%
School or educational issues	37%
Unemployment	29%
Mental health issues	43%
Health issues	13%
Physical disability	1%
Mental disability	7%
Abuse and neglect	13%
Alcohol or other drug abuse	19%

Issues Specific to a Family Member	
Sexual orientation/gender identity	<1%
Housing issues	15%
School or educational issues	2%
Unemployment	8%
Mental health issues	8%
Health issues	2%
Physical disability	5%
Mental disability	6%
Abuse and neglect	6%
Alcohol or other drug abuse	7%

PROGRAM RESULTS

In FY16, VCRHYP served **520** youth. **288** were served through Basic Center Programs (BCP) and **256** were served through Transitional Living Programs (TLP). **443** youth began service provision and **335** youth completed service provision during fiscal year 2016.

Outcomes at Exit	BCP	TLP	All
Safety			
% of exits from the program that were to safe locations (see table below)	80%	70%	74%
% of youth completing the VCRHYP Resiliency Assessment at exit who possess at least one indicator related to Safety	94%	88%	95%
Well-Being			
% of youth completing the VCRHYP Resiliency Assessment at exit who possess at least one indicator related to Well-Being	94%	88%	95%
Permanent Connections			
% of youth completing the VCRHYP Resiliency Assessment at exit who possess at least one indicator related to Permanent Connections	88%	88%	91%
Self-Sufficiency			
% of youth completing the VCRHYP Resiliency Assessment at exit who possess at least one indicator related to Self-Sufficiency	82%	88%	82%

An essential part of determining program effectiveness is measuring how many exits are safe when youth leave services. We define safe exits as stable locations that match a youth’s individual needs and contribute to the youth’s well-being.

Exited to Location	% of Exits
Safe Exit Locations	
Foster Care/Group Home	10%
Hospital/Residential Medical Facility/Long-Term Care Facility	1%
Independent Living (youth owns or is renting)	18%
Psychiatric Hospital/Facility	<1%
Residential Project/Halfway House	2%
Staying or Living with Family	35%
Staying or Living with Friends	7%
College/Educational Program	1%
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility/Detox Center	<1%
Other Exit Locations	
Emergency Shelter	3%
Jail/Prison/Juvenile Detention Facility	1%
Place Not Meant for Human Habitation	1%
Transitional Housing for Homeless Persons	3%
No Exit Interview/Other	19%

RESILIENCY OUTCOME DATA

As part of its commitment to Positive Youth Development, VCRHYP created a Resiliency Assessment to measure strengths and resiliency factors among youth served – an integral part of services at all Coalition agencies. The *VCRHYP Resiliency Assessment* measures 22 indicators with youth at the time of intake, at closing, and every 6-months of continuous service (timed to coincide with updating the youth’s individual Plan of Care). The indicators are a representation of how youth experience the outcome areas identified by VCRHYP: *Safety, Well-Being, Permanent Connections, and Self-Sufficiency*. We currently have access to only part of our FY16 Resiliency Assessment data and can only see assessments completed by youth who exited during the fiscal year, rather than all assessments done by all youth served. In the table below, we show which resiliency indicators saw improvement from entry to exit for those assessments that we can access.

Three out of the four outcome areas in the Resiliency Assessment saw an overall increase for youth exiting the program. *Safety* increased an average of 1.64%, *Well-Being* increased an average of 11.04%, and *Permanent Connections* increased an average of 4.25%. *Self-Sufficiency* saw an average decrease of 3.85%.

Resiliency Indicators that Improved
<i>Safety (4 out of 6 indicators)</i>
I feel safe where I live and/or stay.
I feel safe in my community.
I feel safe from verbal and physical abuse.
I am able to work through conflict without using verbal or physical violence.
<i>Well-Being (4 out of 4 indicators)</i>
At this time in my life, I like who I am.
I do at least one thing to be healthy.
I spend time doing at least one activity that I enjoy.
I have healthy ways to manage stress or stressful situations.
<i>Permanent Connections (3 out of 5 indicators)</i>
I have supportive relationships with one or more family members.
I have one or more supportive friendships.
I feel that adults in my community respect young adults/youth.
<i>Self-Sufficiency (2 out of 7 indicators)</i>
I can listen effectively.
I can usually find the right words to share my thoughts, feelings & ideas.

If you have any questions about VCRHYP services or data, please contact the Administrative Office at info@vcrhyp.org or by calling 802-229-9151.