

TRANSITION AGE YOUTH



TAY

The Department of Mental Health Transition Age Youth (TAY) Initiative helps young persons embark on an affirmative life path into adulthood and toward the goals of personal stability, community housing and employment and positive youth and family relationships. The initiative is informed by the Youth Development Committee (YDC) and the Statewide Young Adult Council (SYAC).

We focus on young adults between the ages of 16 and 25 who are transitioning out of child/adolescent agency services and into adult services or into the community, including young adults entering the DMH adult service system for the first time, as well as those aging out of foster care or juvenile justice.

It is well documented that the transition period for youth struggling with emotional and behavioral difficulties is fraught with unique challenges. Among these are greater risk for dropping out of school, involvement with correctional authorities and sometimes a dependency on social services.

A framework for transition age approaches has been built upon the DMH Child, Youth & Families Services and Adult Systems and has adopted the following guiding principles:

- Encourage that Youth Voice (especially those who are racially, ethnically and culturally diverse) is incorporated into various DMH initiatives to ensure the Department is meeting the needs of youth and young adults in the Commonwealth.
- Prioritize development of evaluated promising practices that focus on rehabilitation/recovery and skill development in identified key domains.
- Collaboration with community resources.
- Readily available access to health care, educational supports, young adult peer mentoring; rehabilitation and recovery programming; vocational; social skill development; housing and employment support.
- Culturally responsive family psychoeducation, training and support.

CONTACT



For more information about the TAY Initiative, YDC, or SYAC
Joel Danforth
617 626-8174
joel.danforth@massmail.state.ma.us

Visit the TAY Page Online at:
<http://www.mass.gov/dmh/tay>