We conduct rigorous program evaluation for quality improvement purposes, as well as, partner with researchers in order to develop and test new innovative practices to enhance the lives of the young people and families we serve. What we learn through these efforts, we share locally and nationally to a variety of stakeholders through different mediums, including:

I. Peer-Reviewed Publications
II. Book Chapters, White Papers, Toolkits & Grey Literature
III. Invited Speaking Engagements, Trainings & Webinars
IV. Peer Reviewed Conference Proceedings
V. Research Project Descriptions

Please see our list below of our knowledge translation efforts over the last 10 years.

I. Peer Reviewed Publications


Updated March 2018

**Book Chapters, White Papers, Toolkits & Grey Literature**

2018 Klodnick, V.V., Mullen, M., Johnson, R., Stone, B., Banko, A. The “Helping Youth on the Path to Employment” (HYPE) Model Fidelity Scale (version1). University of Massachusetts Medical School, Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research

2017 Klodnick, V.V. Effective Supervision for Young Adult Peer Mentors: A Guidebook. University of Massachusetts Medical School, Transitions Research & Training Center in partnership with Department of Mental Health SAMHSA-funded STAY Project. Available at: http://www.cbhknowledge.center/yapm-supervisor-tool-kit

2017 Delman, J., & Klodnick, V.V. Supporting the Success of Young Adult Peer Recovery Workers: A Toolkit for Employers. University of Massachusetts Medical School, Transitions Research & Training Center. Accessible at: https://www.umassmed.edu/globalassets/transitionsrtc/publications/effectivleyemployingyoungadultpeerproviders_a_toolkit.pdf


2013 Klodnick, V.V., Murphy, C., & Fagan, M. Building a Developmentally Tailored Mental Health Program for Transition Age Youth Success. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association - PsyR Connection, Issue 1. Accessible at: http://www.psychrehabassociation.org/content/building-developmentally-tailored-mental-health-program-transition-age-youth-success-0


**Invited Speaking Engagements, Trainings, & Webinars**


2017 Klodnick, V.V. (December). Effective Supervision for Young Adult Peer Mentors. The University of Massachusetts Medical School, Transitions to Adulthood Center for Research in partnership with Department of Mental Health SAMHSA-funded STAY Project.

*Updated March 2018*


2017  Delman, J., & Klodnick, V.V. (October). Effectively Employing Young Adult Peer Providers: A Toolkit. Copeland Center Doors to Wellbeing Program. (499 participants; 256 watched online post-live webinar)

2017  Spencer, E., & Klodnick, V.V. (October). Adapting IPS for Transition-Age Youth." Illinois IPS Monthly Statewide Technical Assistance Call (35 IPS teams).

2017  Spencer, E. (September). Supported Employment for Individuals living with Mental Illness. NAMI Cook County North Suburban Public Education Programs.


2017  Klodnick, V.V., Spencer, E., & Delman, J. (July). Engaging Young Adults Diagnosed with Psychiatric Conditions in Supported Employment Programs. Webinar for GAINS Center Learning Collaborative for SAMHSA IPS Expansion Project.


2017  Fagan, M., & Klodnick, V.V. (June). Slowing Psychosis in its Tracks: Understanding the Coordinated Specialty Care Movement to Change The Lives of Young Adults Experiencing First-Episode Psychosis. Haymarket Summer Institute. Elmhurst, IL.

2017  Spencer, E., & Mailey, K. (May). Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment & the Career Opportunity Readiness Experience (CORE) for Transition-Age Youth. Workshop at Mental Health Transition Center at Cook County Department of Corrections. Chicago, IL.


2016  Klodnick, V.V., Fagan, M., & Spencer, E. (December). Increasing engagement of transition-age youth thru being young-adult informed; leveraging peer support, and integrating supported employment & education. A Webinar sponsored by a Texas System of Care Grant in conjunction with the University of Texas at Austin Center for Mental Health Excellence.

Updated March 2018

2016  Klodnick, V.V. (September) Doing Real-World Program Evaluation in Coordinated Specialty Care. International Consortium on Hallucination Research & Related Symptoms; Chicago, IL.

2016  Fagan, M., & Klodnick, V.V. (September) Stopping Psychosis in its Tracks: Understanding the National Coordinated Specialty Care Movement. Inaugural Brookstone Conference; Northwestern University; Chicago, IL.

2016  Spencer, E. (June). Hosted 4 visitors from China to learn about Thresholds Implementation of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment and how to adapt IPS for Transition-Age Youth.

2016  Spencer, E. (May). Hosted 20 visitors from Singapore to learn about Thresholds Implementation of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment and how to adapt IPS for Transition-Age Youth.


2016  Klodnick, V.V. (February). “Effective Clinical Supervision for Young Adult Therapeutic Peer Mentors.” A two-part Webinar Training Series sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health in conjunction with the Transitions RTC at UMASS Medical School. Accessible at: http://www.umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC/publication/webinars/

2016  Spencer, E. (January). Hosted 18 visitors from Norway to learn about Thresholds Implementation of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment and how to adapt IPS for Transition-Age Youth.

2015  Malina, C., & Klodnick, V.V. (July) Thresholds Homeless Youth & Young Adult Services. Homeless Action Committee Resource Fair & Informational for Service Providers, Persons with Lived Experience, Community Stakeholders, Healthcare Providers, &Federal/State/City/Local Partners. Madden Mental Health Center, Maywood, IL.


2015  Ellison, M., Bond, G., & Klodnick, V.V. “Adapting IPS for Transition-Age Youth: The Thresholds Study,” Webinar sponsored by the Transitions RTC. Accessible at: http://www.umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC/publication/webinars/

2015  Viruet J., & Klodnick, V.V. (July) “Engaging Transition Age Youth in Community Mental Health Services, including First Episode Psychosis Coordinated Specialty Care” - Wisconsin Individual Placement & Support Model of Supported Employment Annual Meeting.

2014 Fagan, M. “Bridging the Transition Cliff: Best Practices In Assisting Young Adults With Mental Health Needs As They Transition To Adulthood.” National Webinar for AACRC.

2013 Spencer, E., & Kerness, K. (October). Exploring the role of an employment specialist and education coordinator in addressing the challenges faced by transition aged youth with disabilities. College Changes Everything Conference. Tinley Park, IL.

2013 SAMHSA & Westat YouTube Videos on Employment Support for Youth & Young Adults. Every Young Person Can Work: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVUZU1A8dk4 Keys To Successful Employment Supports: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4ifcLL27aQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFTil1KJ3rQ&feature=youtu.be


2012 Spencer, E., & Kerness, K. (October). Exploring the role for an employment specialist and education coordinator in addressing the challenges faced by youth with disabilities. Annual Conference on Best Practices in Nonpublic Special Education Programs. Oak Lawn, IL.


2008 Supporting Youth In Transition with Mental Health Needs: US Senate, House of Representatives, & Staff, Capitol Building, Washington DC.

**Peer Reviewed Conference Presentations**


2018 Klodnick, V.V. (March) The Dialectics of Transition Age Youth Engagement and Practice: Introducing the Theory of Balance. Paper Presentation at the Annual Research & Policy Conference: Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health. Tampa, FL.

2018 Ellison, M.L., Mullen, M., & Klodnick, V.V. (March). Adapting Supported Employment (IPS) for High School Age Youth: How, What, and What For? Discussion Hour the Annual Research & Policy Conference: Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health. Tampa, FL.


2017 Delman, J.D., & Klodnick, V.V. (June). Successfully Employing Young Adult Peer Mentors: From Research to Practice: The Employer Toolkit. Annual Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

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2017 Cohen, D.A., & Klodnick, V.V. (March). Changing Systems & Practice in Texas to meet the needs of Transition Age Youth with Serious Mental Health Challenges. Annual Research & Policy Conference: Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health. Tampa, FL.


2017 Malina, C. (November). Trauma in the Helpers: Preventing and Responding to Trauma Reactions in Staff Working with Traumatized Youth. FYSB Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Annual Conference. St. Petersburg, FL.

2016 Cohen, D., & Klodnick, V.V. (August). Adapting supported employment for youth and young adults. Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) 33rd Annual Conference. Houston, TX.


2014 Klodnick, V.V. (March). The meaning of home in the context of aging out of foster Care with a serious mental health condition. Children’s Mental Health Research and Policy Conference. Tampa, FL.

2013 Frounfelker, L.R., Klodnick, V.V., Mueser, K., & Todd, S. (November). Trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder among transition age youth with serious mental health conditions. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA.


2013 Fagan, M. From Transition Cliff to Slope: Best Practices In Assisting Young Adults With Mental Health Needs As They Transition To Adulthood. Association of Childrens Residential Conference, New York.

2013 Klodnick, V.V. (March). Exploring transition experiences of early emerging adults with serious mental health conditions who are aging out of foster care from transitional living programs. Children’s Mental Health Research and Policy Conference. Tampa, FL.


2013 Fagan, M. Bridging the Transition Cliff: Best Practices in Assisting Young Adults With Mental Health Needs As They Transition To Adulthood. Illinois Nonpublic Special Education Programs Annual Conference on Best Practices.


2011 Fagan, M. & Doyle, L. Spreading the Contagion: Transforming a Culture to TIP Thinking for Young Adults with Mental Health Needs. System of Care Conference, Chicago, IL.


Research at Thresholds Youth & Young Adult Programs

2018 Near-Age Peer Mentoring: A Pilot Study
PI: Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW
Project Lead: E-Shawn Spencer
Project Description: Evaluating the feasibility of Recruiting, training, and supporting 5 young adults to mentor 10 young adults in residential settings around work, school, and career development.

2017-2018 Developing a Quality Improvement Process for the Youth & Young Adult Services Division at Thresholds
PI: Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW
Project: Development and refinement of a collaboration between quality, evaluation, and research staff to implement best-practices in quality improvement using data to influence program systems and practices

2016-2018 Designing & Implementing an Evaluation of Coordinated Specialty Care for a Recent Onset of Psychosis
PI: Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW
Project Description: Development and refinement of key performance indicators, data collection and analysis, and quality improvement efforts within the Thresholds MindStrong Program. Lessons learned have been shared with NIH.

2017-2018 Fidelity Scale Comparison: Transition-to-Independence Process & Coordinated Specialty Care for a Recent Onset of Psychosis
PI: Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW
Co-I: Marc Fagan, PsyD
Project Description: Systematic review and analysis of concordance/discordance between two fidelity scales that represent two of the most nationally disseminated approaches to transition-age youth multidisciplinary mental health treatment.

PI: Lisa Razzano, PhD, CPRP, Thresholds
Project Description: A pilot study of the feasibility and impact of a manualized vocational intervention (skills-based workshops with internship component) with young adults with serious mental health challenges.

**2015-2017 Creating a Multidimensional Model of Engagement for Young Adult with Psychiatric Disabilities in Adult System Team-based Community Outreach and Support Services.**

PI: Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW, Thresholds & Faculty Sponsor Lisa Razzano, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry; Funding: NIDILRR Mary E. Switzer Research Fellowship, #90SF0008-01-00

Project Description: A mixed-methods study to examine service utilization patterns in outreach & community support team designed for 18-26 year olds in order to develop a multidimensional definition of engagement & tool to measure engagement.

**2013-2017 RISE Transitional Living Program for Homeless Youth Program Evaluation.**

PI: Vanesa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW, Thresholds; Funded by: U.S. DHHS, Administration on Children, Youth & Families, #HHS-2012-ACF-ACYF-CX-0289

Project Description: A mixed-methods longitudinal program evaluation of the RISE TLP.

**2015-2016 Improving Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model Fidelity Assessment Tools.**

PI’s: Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, LCSW, Thresholds & Hewitt B. Clark, Ph.D., Stars Behavioral Health & University of South Florida

Project Description: Created online fidelity tool to assess transitions solutions review process from staff perspective; piloted this tool at Thresholds & evaluating tool across 6 agencies.

**2015 Decision Support for Smoking Cessation in Young Adults with Severe Mental Illness.**

PI: Mary Brunette, PhD, Dartmouth College, Funded by National Institute of Health, #5R21CA158863-02

Project Description: Project examined impact of motivational electronic decision support system (EDSS) with young adults diagnosed with serious mental health challenges to increase their likelihood in accessing smoking cessation treatments.

**2012-2015 Exploring Experiences and Perceptions of a Successful Transition to Adulthood among Young People Aging Out of Foster Care from Institutional Settings with Serious Mental Health Conditions.**

PI: Vanessa V. Klodnick, PhD, The University of Chicago; Faculty Sponsor Gina Samuels, PhD, The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration; Funded by: Fahs Beck Fund for Research & Experimentation Doctoral Dissertation Grant

Project Description: A longitudinal grounded theory study of young people aging out of child welfare with mental health conditions.
**Adapting the Individual Placement & Support Model of Supported Employment for Transition Age Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions.**

PIs: Maryann Davis, PhD, & Marsha Ellison, PhD, The Learning & Working during the Transition to Adulthood Rehabilitation Research & Training Center (Transitions RTC) at The University of Massachusetts Medical School; Funded by: NIDRR #H133B090018

Project Description: A pilot study assessing the feasibility of add-ons made to the IPS-model of supported employment with 18-21 year olds diagnosed with serious mental health in residential care.

**Adapting Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Transition Age Youth Diagnosed with Severe Mental Illness.**

PIs: Kristin Davis, PhD & Sandra Wilkniss, PhD, Thresholds Institute

Project Description: A longitudinal mixed-method panel study evaluating the feasibility and impact of an adapted version of DBT for 18-21 year olds in Thresholds youth programs.

**Transition Age Youth with Severe Mental Illness: Post-Emancipation Study.**

PI: Vanessa Vorhies, MSSW, Thresholds Institute & The University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration; Co-Is: Kristin Davis, PhD, & Marc Fagan, Psy.D, Thresholds

Project Description: A qualitative study that built on previous qualitative research of youth aging out of care from Thresholds Youth residential and TLP programs to examine the life experiences, needs, and barriers to adult community mental health services post-emancipation.

**Improving Outcomes for Pregnant & Parenting Foster Care Youth with Severe Mental Illness: An Evaluation of a Transitional Living Program.**

PIs: Kristin Davis, PhD, & Sandra Wilkniss, PhD, Thresholds Institute

Project Description: A mixed-methods panel study of the impact of the Thresholds Mothers Project services on a sample of 25 young women in the program for at least 12 months.

**Evaluation of the Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model across Residential and Transitional Living Program Settings.**

PIs: Kristin Davis, PhD, & Hewitt B. Clark, PhD

Project Description: A qualitative panel study assessing how community-based and program-based residential settings trained in the TIP model differ in supporting young adults diagnosed with serious mental health challenges transition to independent living after aging out of the child welfare system.