

# A Community of Practice on Young Adults with SMHC in Northeast Massachusetts

**Definition of a CoP:** A Community of Practice (CoP) brings together people who “share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on a regular basis\*”

Transition age youth & young adults (TAYYA) with serious mental health conditions (SMHC) traverse many systems and involve many stakeholders including:

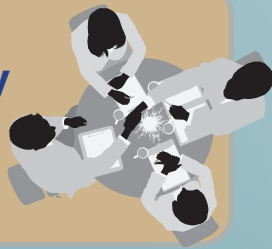
- Child mental health
- Adult mental health
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Child welfare
- Secondary & post-secondary education
- TAYYA
- Family members
- Advocates

**Forming the CoP**  
A CoP for them can include all these groups

A respected **“Champion”** can bring this diverse group of stakeholders together, in this a case a regional Director of Mental Health Services



**Communication**  
CoPs can interact virtually and in person  
This CoP did both



## Goals Can Motivate A CoP



Goals of the CoP should come from the members brainstorming ideas

**Our Goal**  
Create tip sheets for young adults

Regular meeting involvement & review by TAYYA in the content of the tip sheets helped insure their relevancy to the intended users



**Results**  
6 CoP tip sheets have been downloaded thousands of times and are among the most popular tip sheets of the Transitions RTC



## CoPs Need Support

Specific resources are needed to foster and maintain a CoP, in this case the Transitions RTC

Need help creating your own community of practice?

The Transitions RTC can provide technical assistance in creating a CoP for TAYYA in your locale



Visit us online at: <http://labs.umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC>



\*Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, 2000