

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY MAY 6, 2010

ADOLESCENTS IN TRANSITION

Whether they are called “youth in transition,” “transition age youth,” “youth aging out” or other terms, youth in this age group experience a number of challenges on their path to a successful adulthood.

More than 3 million transition age youth have been diagnosed with a Serious Mental Illness. (www.bazelon.org).

Nationally, an estimated 29,500 youth were emancipated from foster care in FY2008. (Administration for Children and Families, AFCARS)

Nationally, approximately 100,000 youth are released from secure and residential facilities each year. (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform)

In New Mexico, each year approximately 390 youth transition from either the foster care (100 youth) or Juvenile Justice Services (290 youth).

Transitional age youth with a serious mental illness have higher rates of substance abuse than any other age groups with mental illness and are 3 times more likely to be involved in criminal activity than adolescents without an illness. (www.bazelon.org)

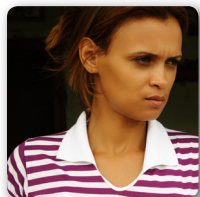
Positive Factors for Youth

Promising practices for working with this group include life skills instruction, educational support, employment and career development support, mentoring and other community outreach activities and services, supervised independent living, and health services – exactly what parents are expected to provide for or assist their children with. (Child Research Brief: Trends)

Keys to successful outcomes include strong programs with high expectations, the ability to develop and showcase youth talents, and long-term relationships with caring adults.

Get Involved!

- View and value young people as partners.
- Create opportunities for youth to develop supportive, trusting relationships with caring adults.
- Recognize and value youth culture.
- Involve youth in meetings and conversations with policy makers, stakeholders, families and other community organizations.



For more information ...

<http://youthhealthlink.org>

<http://nmforumforyouth.org>

http://findyouthinfo.gov/topic_transition.shtml