



Project : Vermont RAYS (Raise Awareness for Youth Services)
formerly known as the Vermont Youth Health Advisory Council

Project Sponsors and Leaders: Vermont Child Health Improvement Program's Youth Health Improvement Initiative
Vermont Department of Health, Maternal Child Health Division, and additional support provided by the Adolescent & Young Adult Health National Resource Center

Project Supporters/Partners:
VCHIP's Youth Health Improvement Initiative (YHII), is able to collaborate with many state organizations and systems including the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Medicaid, and private insurers. Under the guidance of the YHII, the Vermont RAYS are able to help inform project planning and youth initiatives in Vermont.

Project Contacts:
Michelle Maseroni, Youth Facilitator: m.maseroni2@gmail.com
Alyssa Consigli, RD, Project Director: Alyssa.Consigli@med.uvm.edu
Barbara Frankowski, MD, MPH, Project Faculty: Barbara.Frankowski@med.uvm.edu
Erica Gibson, MD, Project Faculty: Erica.Gibson@med.uvm.edu

Objective:
The YHII has a longstanding history of working with medical homes to increase the skills and confidence of providers (pediatricians, family medicine physicians, nurse practitioners, office staff) in providing comprehensive preventive health visits, including screening for risks and assessing strengths. Currently, efforts are targeted at understanding why adolescents do not access annual well visits with Vermont providers who are well trained to deliver excellent, comprehensive services. The Vermont RAYS began in 2016, to bring together a diverse group of young leaders committed to elevating and empowering youth voice across health care and community settings to improve access, quality, safety, and effectiveness of youth services throughout Vermont.

Project Impact:
Since its inception, the RAYS have conducted 10 Youth Led Clinical Assessments, providing medical homes with feedback on improving youth services and a clinic's youth friendliness. Summary reports provided to the medical homes outline general summary and site specific recommendations and resources. Additionally, the group developed a marketing flyer to promote adolescent well care visits.

Future Plans:

- Continue to recruit diverse members
- Engage interested medical homes to increase provider understanding of adolescent and youth experiences and challenges
- Facilitate ongoing trainings for members to promote the development of new skills and increase knowledge of the healthcare system
- Collaborate with interested parties to inform policy and project work where the youth voice is needed