Diverting Youth from Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities: Early Feedback from Service Providers, Caregivers and Youth

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Method

Procedures and Measures
- Two data collection phases: Spring to Summer 2009; Fall 2010 to Spring 2011.
- Surveys and phone interviews with open-ended questions.
- Feedback on services; and factors influencing decisions to use.

Sample
First Phase of Data Collection
- 11 PRTF clinical directors, 24 PRTF Screeners, 27 caregivers, 10 youth.
- Average of 15.9 years (range: 3.0-15.9 years).
- Most PRTF Screeners do not recommend the PRTF CBA Grants to families.
- The youth experiencing a prior placement in a PRTF facility.
- Limited availability of a natural support system.

Second Phase of Data Collection
- 19 CBS directors, 22 PRTF mental health screeners, 27 caregivers, 10 youth.
- Most PRTF Screeners do not recommend the PRTF CBA Grants to families when youth experience severe mental health issues and a history of safety risks.

Strengths of PRTF CBA Grant Services
- Additional services for youth transitioning to adulthood.
- More intense and frequent services.
- Family support to keep children at home.
- Faster enrollment and access to services compared to other state options.
- The youth experiencing a prior placement in a PRTF facility.

Disincentives of PRTF CBA Grant
- Parent support.
- More intense and frequent services.
- Family support to keep children at home.
- Faster enrollment and access to services compared to other state options.
- The youth experiencing a prior placement in a PRTF facility.

Challenges
- The grant program does not meet needs because...we lack the...service providers...financial fund-

Results

Challenges of PRTF CBA Grant Services
- Costly data collection and paperwork requirements.
- Cumbersome enrollment, paperwork and eligibility requirements.
- Inability to assure safety for youth and others.
- Streamline eligibility, enrollment and service delivery procedures.
- Simplify data collection and paperwork requirements.

References