MISSION

The Tompkins County Youth Services Department invests time, resources, and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life.
CORE VALUE #1

Vision: Seeing the bigger picture and planning for the future

Our main planning activities from 2015, click on links for details.

**AYR—Achieving Youth Results**
A planning tool to measure how well young people are doing and develop an action plan to improve outcomes
6 community goal areas (Family, Physical & Emotional Health, Engagement, Education, Economic Security, Community)
12 indicators to measure progress
67 community convening meetings across the county
472 people attended one or more convening
204 respondents helped to prioritize strategies which will help to develop a broad-based Community Action Plan

**MYSS—Municipal Youth Services System Think Tank**
4 gatherings of professionals from varied backgrounds to brainstorm ways to support the MYSS beyond the traditional methods we have been using and to explore ways to make the system more prominent in the County

**ILS—Independent Living Survey Report**
Conducted and published in partnership with Cornell University, Learning Web, and 19 young adults to understand and identify the needs of homeless youth in Tompkins County

**County Youth Services Board & Staff Planning**
Planning Retreat: Philanthropy and the Concept of a Signature Event
Planning for the 40th anniversary of the County Youth Services Dept. (2016)

**City of Ithaca’s Municipal Drug Policy Committee**
Participation on the Prevention Pillar to help explore possible new ways to address problems of drug use and addiction and their impact on our community

“This program has been really good for Joe, helping him get along with other people and stay out of bigger trouble.” Parent of youth in agency program
CORE VALUE #2

Empowerment: Helping others to achieve their own success

An important element of our work is to support others so they can make a difference in the lives of children and families. This included:

**TA—Technical Assistance to 7 Local Youth Commissions/Community Councils in the Municipal Youth Services System (MYSS)**
Help preparing meeting materials, budgets, grant writing, needs assessments, program planning, program monitoring, advocacy and education

**RP—Recreation Partnership**
Ongoing assistance for the partnership of 11 municipalities to support joint youth recreation programming and funding

**Publications and Resources for the Community**
Camp Guide School Listing Town Profiles
Summer Youth Employment Guides Annual Report

**Trainings and Information Sessions for Youth Workers & Community Allies**
To share new research, raise awareness of new issues, troubleshoot problems, and build skills

- **414** attendances at
- **15** training sessions

Topics included: Mentoring, Probation 101, Inclusion, CPR, Summer Camp Regulations, Accessing DSS Subsidies, Understanding Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

“I found this training to be well organized and thought out.” Inclusion training participant
We launched three* new initiatives this year and supported ongoing work:

*RBA—Results Based Accountability
All funded programs received training in this new data-driven framework. Programs now document progress toward performance measures (outcomes) by tracking and reporting on 3 key questions:

How much did we do?
How well did we do it?
And most importantly, is anyone better off?

Programs examine factors that support or hinder their progress to “Turn the Curve” so the trend heads in the desired direction.

*PQA—Program Quality Assessment
We observed and scored municipal youth programs using this research validated tool designed to assess program quality and identify staff training needs. A summary report documenting the 18 observations included recommendations for changes in policy and procedures and staff training which are being implemented before programs are assessed again in 2016.

*CSEC—Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
We provided additional resources to service providers around CSEC through a three-day training series provided by Girls Educational and Mentoring Services from New York City. Twelve local community members were trained as CSEC trainers. In the coming year, we will expand our training and provide even more CSEC community outreach materials.

CCHY—Community Coalition for Healthy Youth
- Staff served on the board and event planning groups
- Collaborated to host 2 heroin forums
- Authored and published Summary of Highlights from fall, 2014 county youth survey; made many community presentations
- Supported law enforcement in sobriety and compliance checks
- Safe Celebrations letters sent to parents of H.S. juniors and seniors
- Community awareness campaign around underage drinking Tipline

“Training that fits my work makes me better at program delivery.” Training participant
CORE VALUE #4
Integrity: Commitment to honest and fair communications and interactions

To keep our funders, programs, and the broader community apprised of our efforts and current issues, our methods included:

**County Youth Services Department Newsletter**
Quarterly electronic newsletter communicated current research, events, and news. Currently shared with 900 people.

**Social Media**
*Twitter* feed launched in 2015; 198 tweets, 200 current followers
*Facebook* account launched in late 2015; 11 posts and 50 “Likes”
Both accounts were used to promote our Achieving Youth Results events and to gather community input on strategies

**Monthly Messages**
A wide variety of topics are covered in messages for parents, families, teachers, and youth workers that are shared electronically with list serves, agencies, and youth-focused allies.

**Networking and Linking**
County Youth Services Staff participate, report, and link with many area groups to both provide and hear information relevant to our work. These include:
- Human Services Coalition, Criminal Justice Alternatives To Incarceration, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittees of the Mental Health Services Board, Collaborative Solutions Network, Collective Impact, Stop DWI, County Recreation Directors Group, Chamber of Commerce, Health Planning Council, Workforce Development Board, Continuum of Care, Leadership Tompkins, New York State Association of Youth Bureaus, Recreation Partnership, Community Coalition for Healthy Youth, Coalition for Safe Medication Disposal, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth Task Force, Youth Employment Council, NYS Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Committee

89% of those who receive the CYS newsletter are satisfied with its content; 95% say it is relevant to their work. *Survey of newsletter recipients*
Core Value #5

Stewardship: Proper management of resources entrusted to our care

Careful oversight of public funds and the programs they support included:

**Fiscal Management**

Received and managed funds from Tompkins County, NYS OCFS (Office of Children & Family Services), and grants*

Managed contracts with funded agencies and municipalities, processed claims, provided ongoing accounting support for each funded program and municipality, and maintained office accounts.

**Resource Allocation**

Youth Services Board reviewed renewal applications for all funded agencies to assure proposed outcomes were on-target. Youth Services Board also did significant planning to prepare for a new, open funding cycle for 2017.

*Grants:*

Thank you to: Park Foundation, Community Foundation, NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) and U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for grants totaling $91,208 in 2015. These grants supported our mentoring symposium, Results-Based Accountability, Safe Harbour (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children) training, and STOP Act Underage Drinking Prevention work.

**Monitoring**

To assure compliance with quality, fiscal, and accountability standards, we monitored all funded agencies/programs and municipal programs. Under contract with Tompkins Workforce, we also monitored summer youth employment programs.

Youth Services staff made 41 monitoring visits to 24 programs in 2015.
As youth move up the pyramid, services tend to be more costly and intensive.

A Continuum of Youth Services
To meet the needs of Tompkins youth in a variety of settings

Commissions/Councils Supported in 2015
Danby Community Council
Dryden Recreation & Youth Commission
Enfield Community Council
Groton Youth Commission
Joint Youth Commission (Towns of Caroline & Ithaca and Villages of Lansing & Cayuga Heights)
Lansing Youth Services
Newfield Recreation Services
Trumansburg Ulysses Youth Commission

Youth Development Programs served 1,639 youth

Recreation Partnership Programs Funded in 2015
59 Programs offered
4,597 registrations in youth Recreation Programs

Agencies/Programs Funded in 2015
Advocacy Center: Youth Services
Child Development Council: Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program
Cornell Cooperative Extension: Urban 4H Program
Family & Children’s Service: One-to-One Big Brothers Big Sisters Program
Ithaca Youth Bureau: Recreation Support Services
Ithaca Youth Bureau: Youth Employment Services
Learning Web: Community and Career Exploration & Apprenticeship Program
Learning Web: Youth Outreach

Targeted Intervention Programs served 1,091 youth

“She’s the best thing that ever happened to me.”
Youth participant about her mentor
2015 Accomplishments of County Youth Services Dept. and Funded Programs and Services

- **25** girls from 7 municipalities improved self-esteem, built skills, and learned from women leaders in non-traditional careers
- **50%** of youth with disabilities in a supported inclusion program participated with their typical peers 50% of the time
- **63%** of independent-living youth secured long-term stable housing
- **72%** of mentored children reported an improved attitude toward school
- **77%** of youth at risk for running away did not do so after involvement with a runaway and homeless provider
- **92%** of youth in a career exploration program increased their knowledge and skills related to chosen fields of interest
- **94%** of young children whose parents received services met appropriate developmental milestones
- **98%** of those trained about youth sexual abuse reported that they have the skills to identify and interrupt youth sexual abuse

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**2015 Youth Services Board**
Angela Sullivan, Chair
Kathy Servoss, Vice-chair
Natalie Detert, Secretary
Ronny Hardaway
Karen Nocera
Barbara Sadovnic
Patty VandeBogart
Amanda Verba
Sarah Wolff
Bernice Yarosh

**2015 Staff**
Amie Hendrix, Director
Theresa Albert
Kris Bennett
Jasmin Cubero
Janice Johnson
David Sanders

**2015 Interns**
Chuchu Lou
Allyson Gatto

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Our Vision:
Tompkins County is a community where all youth are given opportunities which allow them to thrive from childhood to adulthood.