



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
*Office of the Commissioner*

Margaret Ross Schultze  
COMMISSIONER

October 1, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe  
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Walter A. Stosch  
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Charles J. Colgan  
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Chris S. Jones  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Margaret Ross Schultze

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report on Youth for Tomorrow

The 2015 Appropriation Act, Item 341 (I), provides funding to Youth for Tomorrow to provide comprehensive residential, education and counseling services to at-risk adolescents and youth. Item 341 (I) requires Youth for Tomorrow to report annually on outcomes supported by these funds. The report is attached.

MRS:kc

Attachment

# **Report on Youth for Tomorrow Program**

October 2015

## **Report on the Youth for Tomorrow Program October 2015**

### **Report Mandate**

The 2015 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 665, Item 341 (I), appropriates \$100,000 in State Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 to Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) to provide comprehensive residential, education and counseling services to at-risk adolescent youth of the Commonwealth who have been sexually exploited, including victims of sex trafficking. Youth for Tomorrow is required to report on services, outputs and outcomes annually by October to the Governor and Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees. This report is based on the 2015 Year-End Report submitted by Youth for Tomorrow.

### **Background**

Youth for Tomorrow serves female victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). According to Shared Hope International, DMST is the commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders. It is the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” where the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years. The age of the victim is the critical issue – there is no requirement to prove force, fraud, or coercion was used to secure the victim’s actions. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102) recognizes the effect of psychological manipulation by the trafficker, as well as the effect of threats of harm which traffickers/pimps use to maintain control over their young victims. DMST includes but is not limited to the commercial sexual exploitation of children through prostitution, pornography, and/or stripping.

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline, run by Polaris Project, Virginia ranks sixth in the nation for calls regarding potential cases of human trafficking. According to the NHTRC’s Virginia State Report for 2014, the NHTRC received a total of 663 substantive phone calls, 51 emails, and 35 online tip reports from Virginia, including crisis calls (7%); tips of potential trafficking situations (61%); requests for referrals for anti-trafficking services (30%), and training or technical assistance requests (2%). The top caller types have been community members (24%), potential victims of human trafficking (15%), and potential victims of labor exploitation (8%). Through these hotline calls, more than 175 potential cases of human trafficking have been identified, with approximately 65% of the cases involving sex trafficking.

### **YFT Services Overview**

Since 2008, Youth for Tomorrow has served more than 70 DMST victims. During this grant period, July 1, 2014 through October 30, 2014 and April 15, 2015 through June 30, 2015 (7.5 months), YFT served seven DMST victims from Virginia in its Girls on a Journey (GOAJ) Program.<sup>1</sup> Two girls were placed by Loudoun County; one by Stafford County; three from Fairfax County; and one from Henrico County. The average length of stay (LOS) was 5.9 months; the longest LOS was 10 months and the shortest was 3 months. The average age at intake was 15 years; the oldest was 16 and the youngest was 13 years of age. During this period,

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<sup>1</sup> In October 2014, funding for YFT was stopped pursuant to Governor McAuliffe’s FY 2015 Savings Plan. Funding was restored in 2015 and a new contract (FAM-14-091) was executed.

all seven girls made adequate progress, meeting more than 85% or more of their individual service goals. Three girls successfully discharged from the program having met all of their progress goals and successfully reunited with family. The previous year, six DMST victims were served, totaling 13 girls since funding began in August 2013. Lastly, 13 additional girls were served in the GOAJ program, but funded by other means, totaling 24 victims in the past 24 months.

In addition to being provided services specific to the need of DMST victims, three of the girls were enrolled in YFT's standard program, while two girls were enrolled in the Mommy and Me program as a parenting teens. All seven girls were referred to the program as DMST victims by law enforcement agencies for their respective jurisdictions (i.e., Fairfax, Henrico, Loudon and Stafford Counties). In some cases, even after an agency identified the resident as a DMST victim at the time of enrollment, some girls are assessed by YFT clinical staff using the Intervene DMST assessment tool and all of the girls were assessed for trauma, using the Trauma Inventory.

Virginia victims were primarily referred by local law enforcement, including Detective Bill Woolf, Fairfax County Police Department; Detective Michael Croson, Herndon Police Department; and Gregg Lott, FBI Special Victims Unit.

### **Project Service Objectives & Outputs**

***Objective 1:** Youth for Tomorrow clinical staff will provide individual counseling to minor victims of sex trafficking which address their victimization and enable them to develop coping skills which relate to the mental health aspects of their victimization (i.e., trust, attachment issues, self-image, self-esteem, trauma-bond, anxiety, etc.), preventing long term mental health impacts.*

YFT clinical staff provided 55 individual counseling sessions to seven girls whose average length of stay was 5.9 months. In addition, 19 family sessions were provided during this reporting period.

***Objective 2:** Youth for Tomorrow clinical staff will provide group counseling related to victimization. Clinical staff will also identify other group therapy needs such as substance abuse and chemical education, etc.*

YFT provided 19 group counseling sessions to seven girls during this reporting period. Group counseling included GOAJ, chemical education, 12-Step and anger management groups.

***Objective 3:** Youth for Tomorrow will provide residential services to minor victims of sex trafficking, ensuring 24-hour supervision, and facilitate process groups related to cooperation and social skills development; life skills education and recreation.*

YFT residential staff provided to seven girls 57 recreational activities (58 hours); 78 leisure activities (114 hours); and 35 life skills activities (37 hours) during this reporting period.

***Objective 4:*** *Youth for Tomorrow will enroll minor victims of sex trafficking into the residential school, providing special education services when required and secondary level course work in-line with Virginia Department of Education standards.*

YFT educational staff provided 859 hours of educational instruction during the period of project funding.

***Objective 5:*** *Youth for Tomorrow will ensure that minor victims meet regularly with their family, parents or legal guardians. Victims will be allowed phone calls and visitation as well as home visit off-campus. Family will participate in family counseling.*

YFT case managers coordinated four home visits and 21 on-campus visits. Two of the victims had family living in the immediate area.

***Objective 6:*** *An individual service plan will be completed within 30 days of admissions, which outlines the minor victim's service needs as related to her primary reason for placement, such as clinical, education and life skills assessments; and a transition plan.*

YFT case managers developed Individual Service Plans (ISP) for each of the seven residents. ISP can be found in the residents' files.

***Objective 7:*** *Minor victims will participate in weekly life skills instruction based on the ARISE Life Management Skills curriculum. These skills will ensure victims are able to eventually live independently.*

YFT residential staff provided 60 life skills activities (90 hours) during this reporting period.

***Objective 8:*** *Youth for Tomorrow case management staff will identify long-term partnerships with local services providers who offer medical and mental health services to residents, when needed.*

YFT has a memorandum of agreement with Greater Prince William Community Health Center to provide medical services to clients.

***Objective 9:*** *Youth for Tomorrow nursing staff will provide first aide and medication management, coordinate medical services, or refer residents to community agencies for medical services. Victims placed at YFT require medical services related, but not limited to pediatrics, gynecology, dental, and eye care.*

YFT nursing staff coordinated eight doctor's visits during this reporting period.

### **Project Service Outcomes**

Youth for Tomorrow's GOAJ program has served 24 adolescent girls in the last 24 months, including 11 girls directly benefiting from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) funding since August 2013. Of those 24, 22 stayed in the GOAJ program for more than 60 days and were included in the outcomes below:

- 95% met more than 85% of their individual treatment plan goals;
- Twelve are currently receiving some type of after care services from YFT including counseling, educational supports, and living supports;
- Two girls obtained their high school diplomas; and, 86%\* successfully transitioned into the community (i.e., reside at home, maintained employment, and/or enrolled in school).

*\*Two are currently residing at YFT.*

### **Conclusion**

Youth for Tomorrow is the only facility in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region that offers safe and secure housing, along with counseling, education, and medical and dental care for victims of sexual crimes against minors. YFT programs are licensed or accredited by: the Council of Accreditation, AdvancED, Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities, and VDSS. YFT offers a residential program for girls aged 13-21 who are pregnant or teen mothers, and the mothers and their babies may remain in the program until the child reaches age four. Additionally, YFT is licensed to provide care to residents 18 years of age, up to 21 years of age, who are in the custody of a local department of social services or other public agencies.

- The grant appropriation through the VDSS of \$100,000 served seven teenage female victims from Virginia consisting of 41 months of services during this grant period, July 1, 2014 through October 30, 2014 and April 15, 2015 through June 30, 2015 (7.5 months). Youth for Tomorrow matched dollar for dollar the funding provided by VDSS through the General Assembly appropriation to serve these victims. For example, the 24/7 average cost per child for these comprehensive services is \$9,047 a month. These professional services include:
  - State supervised residential services
  - Therapeutic services provided by licensed clinicians
  - Professional nursing care
  - Transportation for required medical/dental treatment
  - Case management services
  - Accredited secondary education services on campus (i.e. secure environment)
- The 40 months of aggregate services provided these girls comes to \$287,880 of which the VDSS grant reimbursement is \$100,000 (35%) with YFT providing the remainder of \$187,880 (65%) under the current grant. State funding is important in supplementing the cost of financially serving this victimized population. Additional funding ensures more

victims trying to recover from this type of violence will receive the safe, secure, therapeutic, medical and case management services they require.