



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

Margaret Ross Schultze
COMMISSIONER

October 1, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Chris S. Jones
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Margaret Ross Schultze

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Margaret Ross Schultze".

SUBJECT: Annual Report on Youth for Tomorrow

The 2017 Appropriation Act, Item 348 (I), provides funding to Youth for Tomorrow to provide comprehensive residential, education and counseling services to at-risk adolescents and youth. Item 348 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 October 1, 2017

Report Mandate

The 2017 Acts of Assembly, Chapter 780, Item 348 I, appropriates \$100,000 in State Fiscal Year 2017 to the organization Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) to provide “comprehensive residential, education and counseling services to at-risk adolescent youth of the Commonwealth of Virginia who have been sexually exploited, including victims of sex trafficking.” The appropriations language instructs the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to include in the contract with YFT specific goods and services that will be delivered to adolescents and youth of the Commonwealth as a result of this appropriation. The appropriations language also requires YFT to submit an annual report which is due to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees by October 1 of each year.

This document is the State Fiscal Year 2017 year-end report submitted by Youth for Tomorrow.

Background

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. Youth for Tomorrow is committed to providing services to 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 used to secure the victim’s actions. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act 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 fifteenth in the nation for human trafficking cases. According to the NHTRC’s Virginia State Report for 2016, the NHTRC received a total of 610 substantive phone calls from Virginia. The top caller types were community members (31.3%), victims of human trafficking (14.6%), family of a trafficking victim (10.1%), and non-government organization representatives (9.7%). The primary reason for contacting the NHTRC included reporting a trafficking tip (77.7%), access service referrals (15.5%), request crisis assistance (4.0%), and request general information (2.0%). Through these hotline calls, a total of 148 unique cases (incidents) of potential human trafficking were reported to the hotline, with approximately 39.9% of the cases involving minors who were victims of sex trafficking. Females represented (85.1%) of the victims.

YFT Services Overview

Since 2008, YFT has served more than 140 DMST victims. During this grant period, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, the first DMST victim arrived, utilizing grant funds on November

18, 2016. YFT served three DMST victims from Virginia in its Girls on a Journey (GOAJ) Program. All three girls served during this funding period were from Fairfax County. The average length of stay (LOS) was eight months for two girls; the shortest was less than one month. The three youth were ages 15, 16 and 17 years of age at intake. During this period, all but one girl made adequate progress, meeting more than 85% of their Individual Service Goals. One girl was hospitalized for suicide ideation and discharged to a locked-down facility. Two girls were successfully discharged from the program in June 2017, having met all of their progress goals and successfully reuniting with family.

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 three girls were referred to the program as DMST victims by law enforcement agencies for their respective jurisdictions (i.e., Fairfax County). 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.

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 81 individual counseling sessions to three girls. In addition, 20 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, chemical education, etc.*

YFT provided 5 group counseling sessions to two of the three 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 process group related to cooperation and social skills development; life skills education and recreation.*

YFT residential staff provided 241 hours of recreational activities and leisure activities during this reporting period.

Objective 4: *Youth For Tomorrow will enroll minor victim 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 1,050 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 14 home visits and 8 on-campus visits.

Objective 6: *An individual service plan will be completed within 30 days of admissions, which outlines the minor victims service needs as related to her primary reason for placement (sex trafficking); clinical, education and life skills assessments; and transition plan.*

YFT case managers developed service plans for each of the three residents. Service plans 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 43 hours of life skills activities during this reporting period.

Objective 8: *Youth For Tomorrow case management staff will identify long-term partnerships with local service 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 aid, medication management, coordinate medical service 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 8 doctor's visits during this reporting period.

Service Outcomes

Youth For Tomorrow's GOAJ program has served 33 adolescent girls in the last 12 months (a 66% increase from the previous year), including the 3 girls directly benefiting from VDSS funding this past year. Of those 33, 31 stayed in the GOAJ program for more than 60 days and were included in the outcomes below:

- 89% met more than 85% of their individual treatment plan goals;
- Four are currently receiving some type of after care services from YFT including, counseling, educational supports, and living supports;
- Fourteen girls obtained their high school diploma or GED; and,

- 89% have successfully transitioned into the community (i.e., reside at home, maintained employment, and/or enrolled in school).

Conclusion

Youth For Tomorrow reports that they are 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. Youth For Tomorrow is licensed to provide care to residents 18 years of age and up to 21 years of age who receive services from the local departments of social services or other public agencies.

The \$100,000 grant appropriation through VDSS has served three teenage female victims from Virginia consisting of 16 months of services during this grant period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Youth for Tomorrow has 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 \$17,640/ 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 16 months of aggregate services provided to these girls comes to \$282,240 of which VDSS grant reimbursement is \$100,000 (35%) with YFT providing the remainder of \$182,240 (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.