



## ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACT SHEETS

### What is the North Carolina Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Coordination Grant?

#### Why was the project started?

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The Division of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded a three-year grant from SAMHSA's (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) for adolescent substance abuse treatment coordination. The increasing numbers of adolescents with or at risk for substance abuse, the need for greater coordination among the agencies and increased access to quality services for these youth and their families, and the mandate for greater consumer/professional collaboration under mental health reform and system of care led to this project.

#### What is the purpose of the project?

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The purpose of the North Carolina Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Project (NC ASATP) is to build a sustainable infrastructure that strengthens the capacity of North Carolina to deliver substance abuse treatment to youth and their families that is comprehensive, effective, accessible, affordable, and integrated into the continuum of services for children and youth who are served by the Division. Through a system of care philosophy, the project will support young people and their families through the entire process from screening, to assessment, to treatment, and to aftercare.

The specific goals of the project are:

1. to incorporate substance abuse treatment into the existing mechanism and process of collaboration (among service systems, youth and their families, colleges and universities, and community organizations, including faith-based groups) for serving children and youth at risk of out of home placement and their families;
2. to work toward a comprehensive array of effective, accessible, and affordable services for youth with substance abuse and/or co-occurring problems that are evidence-based and use promising practices models;
3. to disseminate information and training on evidenced based practices and resources; and to develop and support a workforce for adolescent substance abuse treatment in collaboration with the State's colleges and universities and private service providers.

#### How will we enhance this new infrastructure?

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The project will build on the structure and process of collaboration and best practices (respectful partnerships with consumers, cultural competence, strength-based) that grew out of the various NC System of Care Demonstration Projects funded by Center of Mental Health Services (CMHS). NC ASATP will incorporate substance abuse screening, assessment, and treatment into the existing mechanisms for serving children and youth and their families including programs administered by the Division of MH/DD/SAS, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DDJDP), Department of Social Services (DSS) and other child serving public and private agencies. The ultimate goal is for North Carolina to have a best practice substance abuse services model for adolescents. This model and corresponding professional competencies will be developed through information gathered from key stakeholder focus and advisory groups consisting of youth, families, providers, academia as well as the existing research literature and successful practices across the county that will be tailored for North Carolina. Focusing on workforce development, the project will disseminate information through these advisory groups and website and will provide regional and state-wide training on these practices to LMEs, service providers, families, and other stakeholders.

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**SAMHSA**



NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services



## What projects are we working on?

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### Information Clearinghouse

A clearinghouse containing information on adolescent substance abuse, person-centered thinking and planning, system of care, evidenced based practices in screening, assessment and treatment will be established. This clearinghouse can be accessed via the Division's website or by going to UNCG's Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnership's website at [www.uncg.edu/csr](http://www.uncg.edu/csr). The system of care clearinghouse is already posted and the rest of the site should go live by 11/1/06.

### Preservice and Inservice Training

Project staff will be developing training on adolescent substance abuse screening, assessment, and treatment, person-centered planning, system of care, evidenced-based practices, etc. that will be integrated within existing course offerings within institutions of higher learning as well as through continuing education mechanisms such as LME sponsored trainings or AHEC. Trainings will be developed for both providers as well as consumers.

### Provider Network and Quarterly Newsletter

The project will be establishing a list serve for adolescent substance abuse/mental health providers which will serve as a basis for disseminating information about the grant, updates from the field, as well as a quarterly newsletter.

### Family/Youth Network and Quarterly Newsletter

The project will also establish a list serve and quarterly newsletter for families and youth with substance abuse challenges.

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Adolescent Substance Abuse Fact Sheets are designed to provide answers at a glance to common questions about adolescent substance abuse. Reproduction of the text is encouraged; however, copies may not be sold.