

## **VENTURA COUNTY**

## **GRADE: D**

Ventura County has a population of 826,550.<sup>i</sup> As of January 1, 2008, there were 95 Transition Age Foster Youth aged 16–20 in Ventura County’s child welfare-supervised foster care.<sup>ii</sup> Between 2002 and 2007, approximately 216 Transition Age Foster Youth aged out of Ventura County’s child welfare-supervised foster care.<sup>iii</sup> Therefore, there were approximately 311 Transition Age Foster Youth aged 16–25 in Ventura County as of January 1, 2008.<sup>iv</sup> Conservatively assuming that 23% of these youth have a serious mental illness or severe emotional disorder, there are about 72 Transition Age Foster Youth in Ventura County who would potentially qualify for Prop. 63-funded services.

### *To What Extent are Prop. 63-Funded CSS Programs Serving Transition Age Foster Youth?*

**Ventura County has not created a Prop. 63-funded CSS program solely and specifically for Transition Age Foster Youth.<sup>v</sup>**

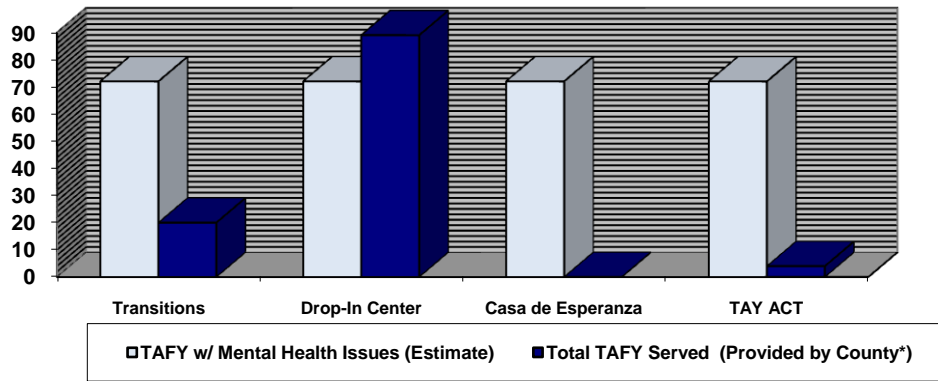
However, Ventura County has created four Prop. 63-funded CSS programs for TAY from which Transition Age Foster Youth may benefit.<sup>vi</sup> The four programs are the Transitions Program (FSP), the TAY Wellness and Recovery Drop in Center, Casa de Esperanza Social Rehabilitation/ACT Residential Program, and TAY ACT Community programs. The Transitions Program provides a comprehensive outpatient treatment program in both the individual and group modalities using a “whatever it takes” model of service delivery.<sup>vii</sup> The Transitions Program addresses the TAY’s mental health and substance abuse treatment needs, as well as providing assistance with “age appropriate developmental tasks”.<sup>viii</sup> The Transitions Program provides housing, employment and educational assistance and includes rehabilitation services such as: living skills, social skills and an employment development group.<sup>ix</sup> Importantly, for TAFY, there are therapy groups available through this program that focus on attachment, helping TAY and TAFY young adults who may have and insecure attachments to their own parents, attach in healthy, secure ways to their own children. TAY and TAFY are also offered individual treatment, intensive case management, individual rehabilitative services and psychiatric treatment.<sup>x</sup> Ventura County expanded the Transitions Program capacity from 40 to 250 TAY with MHSA funding. It has served an estimated 20 TAFY in 2010 (as of April). The County has helped some TAFY in obtaining grants, housing, returning to school to obtain higher education, and as parents through its Transitions Program.<sup>xi</sup>

Ventura County’s Wellness and Recovery Drop-in Center (TAY Tunnel) serves seriously mentally ill TAY ages 18 to 25 who are, or are at risk of homelessness, substance abuse, incarceration and increasing severity of mental health issues. <sup>xii</sup> TAY and TAFY may receive assistance with temporary housing and linkage to resources such as mental health services, education, housing, employment and benefits at the Drop-in Center. It provides outreach and engagement, importantly hosting emancipation conferences, it provides “whatever it takes,” peer support and offers at least four hours of learning experience per day in classes ranging from Wellness and Recovery to physical and mental wellness and nutrition.<sup>xiii</sup> The Drop-In has a capacity of 100; it has served approximately 89 TAFY since 2008.<sup>xiv</sup>

The Casa de Esperanza Social Rehabilitation / ACT Residential Program provides 15 beds for severe and persistently mentally ill TAY at risk of homelessness with co-occurring disorders.<sup>xv</sup> The Residential TAY Social Rehabilitation Program provides both on-site social rehabilitation services as well as Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services in the community.<sup>xvi</sup> Activities are designed for socialization, education, and recreation. Intensive case management and rehabilitation is provided through ACT teams, and staff assists participants in working toward their goals. Ventura County has not provided an estimate of how many TAFY have been served by Casa de Esperanza.<sup>xvii</sup>

The final MHSA-funded TAY program Ventura County has created is the TAY ACT Community Program, which has the capacity to serve an additional 15 TAY in the community. The program provides a continuum of options for TAY, as they graduate from the residential social rehabilitation program, and it ensures that community supports are available to those TAY who do not select or need a residential program. The program utilizes the ACT model. It provides 24/7 wraparound type, community based services and supports. Flexible funds are utilized to provide consumers with “whatever it takes.”<sup>xviii</sup> Ventura County has provided information indicating that the TAY ACT Community Program has served an estimated four TAFY.<sup>xix</sup>

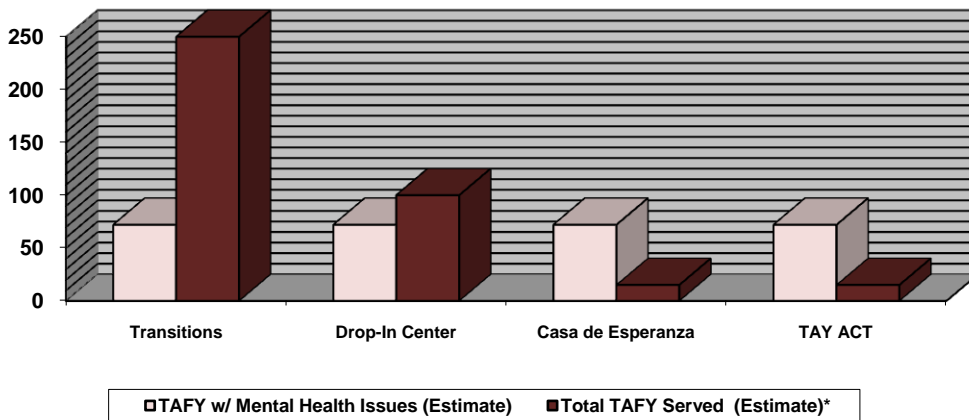
**Ventura COUNTY:  
Eligible TAFY Population vs. TAFY Served by MHSA-Funded CSS Programs**



*\*Note: The data reflected in the above was not estimated by CAI, as is the case with regard to other counties' charts. Ventura County provided this data to CAI in a memo Dated April 9, 2010. Although the figures provided by Ventura County were total TAFY capacity served "to date", CAI is using those figures as if these TAFY were served within the same year.*

If Ventura County's CSS programs for TAY were available exclusively to Transition Age Foster Youth—which is not currently the case—the capacities of Casa de Esperanza and the TAY ACT Community Treatment Program would still be insufficient to meet estimated demand, but the capacities of the Transitions and Wellness & Recovery Drop-in Center would be sufficient to meet estimated demand:

**Ventura COUNTY:  
Eligible TAFY Population vs. Total TAY Population Served by MHSA-Funded CSS Programs**



*\*Note: to maintain consistency with the method by which the other counties' charts were developed, the capacities reflected in this chart are the county's estimated annual capacities for the programs, not the total number of TAY actually served since the program began. Ventura County has provided CAI with those numbers as well, they are as follows: Transitions has served 350 TAY since July 2007, the Drop-in Center has served 160 TAY since January 2008, Casa de Esperanza has served 55 TAY since December 2006, and TAY ACT has served 27 TAY since January 2009.*

Criteria	Points
1. <b>TAFY Focus:</b> Does the county offer a program designed solely and specifically for TAFY? Has it tailored a component of a program specifically to TAFY?	0 of 10
2. <b>Priority Population:</b> Does the county designate TAFY to be a priority population? How many other priority populations are served by the program? If not named expressly as a priority population, how likely is it that TAFY will fit into one of the named priority populations?	5 of 20
3. <b>Capacity:</b> What is the capacity of the program? How does capacity compare to estimated need?	23 of 35
4. <b>Sufficiency of Services Provided:</b> How many of the optimal elements are included in the program? Optimal elements for TAFY are deemed to be mental health services, immediate shelter, long-term housing, peer support/mentoring, flexible funding, education, and employment assistance.	30 of 30
5. <b>TAFY Tracking:</b> To what extent does the program track TAFY participation and outcomes?	2 of 5
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>60 of 100</b>

**Final Grade: Regarding its use of Prop. 63 CSS funding to meet the needs of Transition Age Foster Youth, Ventura County's grade is D.** However, it should be noted that Ventura County continues to greatly increase the capacity of its TAY programs, and has begun to collaborate with the Ventura County Chapter of the California Youth Connection (CYC) to provide emancipation workshops in conjunction with their Drop-in Center. This is commendable and CAI would encourage Ventura County to continue to collaborate with groups, like CYC, that represent the interests of TAFY, to provide meaningful insight and ideas as they move forward with their planning for future MHSA funding.

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**A Note on Ventura County's Prop. 63-funded Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Programs.** *Ventura County submitted its PEI plan in August 2009.<sup>xx</sup> As of this writing, the Commission has not approved the plan. As submitted, Ventura County's plan does not include any projects or programs designed solely and specifically for TAFY. However, the plan includes one project created for TAY, from which some TAFY may benefit. The project, Early Signs of Psychosis Intervention, will create an Early Psychosis Prevention and Early Intervention (EDIPP) team that will be responsible (in coordination with all of the Community Coalitions) for an education/training campaign directed at high school and college teachers, primary care staff, and law enforcement. The team will be mobile, providing screening/assessment and when indicated early intervention services that are home- and community-based. The program will establish linkages to the County's Full Service Partnership and related supports.*

*As submitted, Ventura County's plan includes three additional projects that name TAY as one of several priority populations. The projects are Community Coalitions, Primary Care Services, and School Based Services.*

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<sup>i</sup> California Department of Finance, Table E-2, California County Population Estimates and Percent Change, Revised July 1, 2000 through Provisional July 1, 2006.

<sup>ii</sup> Information from CWS/CMS Dynamic Report System (available online at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb%5Fchildwelfare/>).

<sup>iii</sup> Information from Child Welfare Reports as of August 14, 2007 (available online at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/defaultStatic.asp>).

<sup>iv</sup> *Id.*

<sup>v</sup> Ventura County Letter of Response to CAP's April 2007 CPRA request.

<sup>vi</sup> *Id.*

<sup>vii</sup> Memo: Ventura County Response to the January 2010 Special Report of the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) University of San Diego School of Law Proposition 63: Is the MHSA Reaching California's Transition Age Foster Youth? From: Melody Roy, L.C.S.W., Director of Ventura County Behavioral Health. April 9, 2010.

<sup>viii</sup> *Id.*

<sup>ix</sup> *Id.*

<sup>x</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xi</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xii</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xiii</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xiv</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xv</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xvi</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xvii</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xviii</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xix</sup> *Id.*

<sup>xx</sup> *Ventura County Behavioral Health Department Mental Health Services: Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention Component Plan* (August 4, 2009) (available online at [http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSAAC/docs/PEI/Ventura/PEI\\_Ventura.pdf](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSAAC/docs/PEI/Ventura/PEI_Ventura.pdf)).