

## **Youth Facilitator**

The Project has a contract with the Allies with Families (Utah Chapter of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health) to enhance youth and family development. Allies with Families subcontracts with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Utah Chapter and the New Frontiers for Families to accomplish contract scope of work. Under the subcontract, NAMI Utah hired a part-time Youth Facilitator to coordinate youth development activities at the state and local levels. She works on several projects to improve youth involvement:

- a. Completing the youth leadership curriculum (Appendix II)
- b. Organizing the State Youth Action Council: After more than one year's hiatus, the Youth Facilitator restarted the Youth Action Council. There are currently 17 members on the Council which meets monthly at the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. The Council has developed the policy and procedure (Appendix I) to govern the operation of the Council. The Youth Facilitator made some critical adjustments and made tremendous progress in building a Council that is run by the youth.
- c. Outreaching to LGBTQ and the homeless populations to increase the diversity of the council membership,
- d. Working with the evaluator to develop the Youth Involvement in Mental Health Care survey: The survey is to assess young people's involvement in treatment planning and system planning and perception of care (Appendix III).
- e. Providing youth leadership training and mentoring: In December 2012, the Youth Facilitator provided training to 15 young people in San Juan County. These young people now attend community meetings to provide youth input and help planning for community events. The Youth Facilitator will conduct similar youth leadership training in Tooele County in January 2013.
- f. Collaborating with the Utah Department of Heritage and Arts to organize a Youth Art Show: The Art Show is a social marketing activity to highlight resiliency of young people facing mental health challenges. It was held during December 2012 at a Salt Lake City downtown gallery. With "Recovery" as the theme, young people expressed through the art works their perspectives on different stages of recovery. There were 45 pieces of art work and more than 500 people attended the exhibit. The open house flyer and samples of the art work are in Appendix IV.