

Conference Activities

The Research & Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures (Pathways RTC) at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon held its 2018 State-of-the-Science Conference in conjunction with the 31st Annual Research & Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health, March 4–7, 2018.

Pathways RTC partnered with the conference organizers in developing a youth and young adult track focused on exploring the state of the science in a series of thematic areas that are part of the larger topic of community inclusion and participation for older youth and young adults with serious mental health conditions. This state-of-the-science track included ten general session presentations by Pathways staff, four complementary presentations by others in the field, and a Tuesday afternoon keynote presentation led by Pathways' director, Janet Walker.

Before the Conference

In preparation for the State-of-the-Science Conference, Pathways RTC research staff wrote a series of literature reviews describing the state of the science in a series of thematic areas that are part of the larger topic of community inclusion and participation, and that are related to Pathways' current research areas.

- Peer Support as a Strategy to Promote Self-Determined Community Participation: [Peer Support for](#)

[Youth and young Adults Who Experience Serious Mental Health Conditions: State of the Science](#)

- Training Providers to Promote Young People's Self-Determined Community Participation: [Building Competencies and Skills Among Service Providers Working with young People who Experience Serious Mental Health Conditions: State of the Science](#)
- Promoting the Influence of Youth and Young Adults as a Means of Building System Capacity to Support Community Participation: [Assessing the Meaningful Inclusion of Youth Voice in Policy and Practice: State of the Science](#)
- Mentoring and Social Capital as Strategies for Promoting Community Participation: [Social Network Enhancement Strategies to Address Limited Support Networks in Young Adulthood: State of the Science](#)
- Supporting Community Participation among Young People Experiencing a First Episode of Psychosis: [Mitigating Early Loss of Community Participation in Early Psychosis Services: State of the Science](#)



In addition, Pathways RTC invited partners at Youth MOVE National and FREDLA (Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association) to contribute commentaries on the state of the science from their perspectives.

- [*A Screeching Halt: Family Involvement When a Youth with Mental Health Needs Turns 18: Commentary on State of the Science from a Family Perspective*](#)
- [*The Role of Youth-Run Organizations in Improving Services and Systems for Youth and Young Adults: A Commentary on the State of the Science*](#)

Finally, Pathways RTC research staff drafted project summaries on some of the key results of our current research focused on conference themes:

- [*Using a “Remote,” Web-Based Training and Coaching Approach to Increase Providers’ Skills for Working with Youth and Young Adults: Findings from the Achieve My Plan Training Study*](#)
- [*The AMP+ Skills Enhancement Training for Peer Support Providers*](#)
- [*Promoting Positive Pathways to Adulthood: Outcomes of an Online Training Program for Transition Service Providers*](#)
- [*Youth/Young Adult Voice in Agency- and System-Level Advising and Decision Making: The Y-VAL and Y-VOC Assessments*](#)

- [*What Do Transition Service Providers Need to Know and Be Able to Do? Results of a National Survey of Training Needs and Preferences*](#)

During the Conference

Pathways RTC invited experts from the field to serve as our discussants for the State-of-the-Science Conference. These discussants received the literature reviews, commentaries and project summaries in advance of the conference, and attended the State-of-the-Science Conference track.

After the Conference

After the conference concluded, Pathways hosted a wrap-up session with all of our attending staff and discussants. During this meeting, discussants were invited to comment on their impressions of the conference overall, to discuss the specific themes related to Pathways’ work, and to offer perspectives regarding priorities for future research. Notes from three note-takers for this session were combined and reconciled. Upon returning to Portland, Pathways staff met as a group to review these notes and to discuss implications of discussants’ comments. The results are summarized in the [Discussion and Research Agenda](#). Staff also compiled information about the [State-of-the-Science Conference track and conference discussants](#).

Funders

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