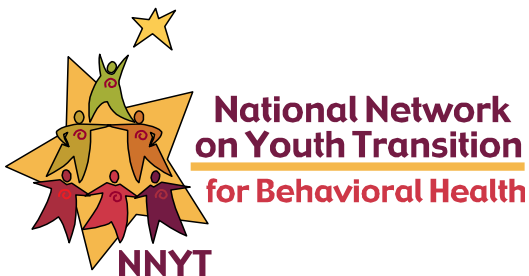


# Transition to Adulthood Program Information System (TAPIS)

## Overview of the TAPIS Progress Tracker (v4.1)

Hewitt B. “Rusty” Clark  
Nicole Deschênes



## Author's Note:

The *National Network on Youth Transition for Behavioral Health (NNYT)* now has two “hubs” – one at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa FL and one at *Stars Behavioral Health Group (SBHG)* in Long Beach CA. SBHG serves as the NNYT Purveyor for the *Transition to Independence Process (TIP)* model and operates the NNYT Stars Training Academy. Although both NNYT hubs are involved in evaluation and continuing quality improvement efforts, the USF hub has more of an exclusive evaluation/research emphasis. This document has been adapted by NNYT faculty at the Department of Child & Family Studies, College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, University of South Florida for use by SBHG and NNYT under a contract from SBHG.

## Please contact us for more information or to provide feedback/suggestions

We appreciate your interest in the TAPIS Progress Tracker and would value any suggestions that you might have should you begin using it. For more information, please visit our websites listed below or contact **Hewitt B. “Rusty” Clark**, Ph.D., BCBA, or **Nicole Deschênes**, M.Ed. at the NNYT, Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa FL 33612, or **Joseph Solomita**, Director of Training at the Stars Behavioral Health Group, SBHG NNYT Academy, Long Beach California, or Lauren M. Pugh at Mosaic Network Inc.

**Email:** [clark@fmhi.usf.edu](mailto:clark@fmhi.usf.edu) [deschenes@fmhi.usf.edu](mailto:deschenes@fmhi.usf.edu) [jsolomita@starsinc.com](mailto:jsolomita@starsinc.com)  
[lpugh@mosaic-network.com](mailto:lpugh@mosaic-network.com)

Lauren M Pugh, MPhil  
Project Manager  
Mosaic Network, Inc.  
Social Innovation through Technology, Evaluation & Research  
5266 Hollister Ave, Ste. 123  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111  
Tel: 805.692.0992 x 223 Fax: 805.692.4082

## Websites

***Transition to Independence Process (TIP) System***, <http://www.NNYT.TIPstars.org>

***National Network on Youth Transition for Behavioral Health (NNYT)***, <http://nnyt.fmhi.usf.edu>

***Mosaic Network Inc***, [www.mosaic-network.com](http://www.mosaic-network.com)

## Recommended Citation:

Clark, H. B., & Deschênes, N. (2005; TAPIS v4.1 2010). *Transition to Adulthood Program Information System (TAPIS) Progress Tracker v4.1*. Tampa, FL: National Network on Youth Transition for Behavioral Health.

# Transition to Adulthood Program Information System (TAPIS) Overview of the TAPIS Progress Tracker

Version: October 15, 2010

The **purpose** of the *TAPIS Progress Tracker* is to assist community-based transition programs in better serving the needs of the youth and young adults (14-29 years old) with emotional/behavioral disturbances (EBD) by: guiding transition planning; determining medical necessity; and providing aggregate data for continuing system improvement. The *TAPIS Progress Tracker* provides program personnel an assessment of each young person's progress or difficulty over time across the following *Transition Domains*:

- **Employment and Career\***
- **Education**
- **Living Situation**
- Personal Effectiveness and Wellbeing
  - **Interpersonal Relationships**
  - **Emotional and Behavioral Wellbeing**
  - **Physical Health and Wellbeing**
  - **Parenting**
- Community Life Functioning
  - **Daily Living**
  - **Leisure Activities**
  - **Community Participation**

\*Assessments are made across the bolded Transition Domains and Sub-Domains.

A *TAPIS Progress Tracker* assessment is completed by the transition facilitator (or whoever knows the young person best) to **establish a baseline for the 90 days prior to intake and for each 90-day period thereafter**. Guidance is provided throughout the *TAPIS Progress Tracker* to assist one in completing it.

TAPIS also has a **youth-driven component** which has the *TAPIS Goal Achiever* (aka: *Futures Planning*). The *TAPIS Goal Achiever* provides for the youth or young adult to work with the transition facilitator on setting his/her own individualized goals -- and tracking the progress on each goal and associated steps in achieving such. Initially this

is an ongoing day to day or week to week process with most young people. Over time, this typically becomes a weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly review process; with the young person learning to self-manage this process. (Please refer to the Personnel Orientation Training Section of the TIP website for the Futures Planning Module).

### **TAPIS Roots**

The ***Transition to Adulthood Program Information System (TAPIS)*** is a transition assessment system that has been developed based on our experience with three previous measurement systems that the NNYT Team and selected colleagues created: The *Community Adjustment Rating of Transition Success (CARTS) Progress Tracker* (Clark, Knapp, & Corbett, 2001) and the *Transition to Adulthood Assessment Protocol (TAAP)* (Davis, Deschênes, Gamache, & Clark, 2004).

The ***TAPIS Progress Tracker*** is designed to inform transition personnel on the progress of young people (14-29 years of age) transitioning into adulthood roles and to provide aggregated data for continuing program improvement purposes. TAPIS draws on data elements from various other transition assessment systems (Ansell-Casey, 2003; Bullis & Fredericks, 2002; Clark & Patton, 1997; Clark, Knapp, & Corbett, 1996; Davis, Deschênes, Gamache, & Clark, 2004a, 2004b, 2004c; Lyons, 1999). Among these, the *Community Adjustment Rating of Transition Success (CARTS) Progress Tracker* and *Transition to Adulthood Assessment Protocol (TAAP)* were developed by the NNYT Team and selected colleagues for evaluation use within two federally-funded projects. Several lessons from these efforts have fed into the development of a third generation instrument (*TAPIS Progress Tracker v3.0. series*) and now the fourth generation instrument (*TAPIS Progress Tracker v4.1*).

### **Identification of TAPIS Progress Tracker Indicators**

Literature searches were conducted at two points in time to identify variables or “indicators of progress” that might impact future functioning of young people with EBD. Following each of these efforts, focus groups were conducted with various stake holders (e.g., young people, parents of transition-age youth, case managers, transition facilitators, teachers, social workers, psychologist/psychiatrists, and program supervisors) from across the country to get their input on which variables would indicate progress or difficulty within each transition domain (or sub-domain) over time. Based on these findings and extensive review by NNYT team members and other selected colleagues, we established the transition domains/sub-domains and the progress

indicators. The methods for administration, primary source of data, and the items for collecting the indicators have varied over the four generations of instruments.

### **Theoretical Underpinnings of the *TAPIS Progress Tracker***

The TAPIS Progress Tracker does not yield an overall score, rather a young person's assessment findings on each item and domain (sub-domain) is tracked for progress or difficulty over time. The theoretical underpinnings of the TAPIS Progress Tracker are based in "communimetrics" (Lyons, 2009). This theoretical framework of instrumentation places an emphasis on the face validity of items and not on composite total scores or subscores. Thus, with "communimetrics" the focus is on the meaningfulness and usefulness of the assessment information rather than on the psychometric features of the combined scores.

For example, the emphasis at the individual level might be on tracking Sasha's connections with natural social supports in her life as tracked over time under the Interpersonal Relationship domain and her productive involvement in Employment and/or Education. At the program level a query could yield a report that aggregates the proportion of young people who have been in the program at least 6 month as to their involvement in employment or post-secondary education in contrast to their pre-program productivity involvement.

### **Accessing Relevant Information**

Data for data sake is of no value. The TAPIS Progress Tracker is designed to assist you in your working with young people and their informal and formal key players, as well as supervisors being able to better manage a program and continue to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of the transition program.

The TAPIS Progress Tracker v4.1 can be used as a paper version. However, to maximize access and the usefulness of TAPIS Progress Tracker findings, the instrument should be used within a site's MIS system or accessed through a web-based data system that is tailored to be user-friendly for personnel at the direct service level as well as at the program level. Having the TAPIS Progress Tracker web-based (or in one's own MIS system, if done correctly) allows for easy reporting and the querying of the data that is relevant to personnel at different levels (e.g., Transition Facilitator can access a report on Angela that illustrates progress over time and assists in planning for relevant supports and services. A Program Manager can access a report that aggregates the progress of all of the young people or a particular subset of them regarding the proportion who are either in postsecondary education/training and/or

employed.). If a site wants to use the TAPIS PT v4.1, Dr. Clark can authorize its use in the paper version or for it being incorporate into the site's MIS system in order to facilitate data access and relevant reports to personnel at each level of the operation.

The Mosaic Network (an evaluation and software company) had created a pilot version of the TAPIS Progress Tracker and the TAPIS Goal Achiever (a web-based Futures Planning form for establishing the young person's individualized personal goals and tracking his/her progress on these). After piloting the Mosaic TAPIS Progress Tracker, we found that we needed to make revisions to the instrument. We anticipate that Mosaic the new web-based version of the TAPIS Progress Tracker v4.1 will probably be available by September 2010.

**Regarding permission to use the paper version of TAPIS (or to learn about accessing a web-based version or for placement within your own MIS system), please contact Dr. Rusty Clark.** Regarding the use of the Mosaic TAPIS Progress Tracker web-based version, please contact Lauren Pugh.

The ***User-Guide for the TAPIS Progress Tracker v4.1*** (User-Guide under revision) describes this assessment tool and its development. It also provides guidance on its use to maximize reliability and validity and to maximize the usefulness of the assessment findings. For example, when learning the TAPIS Progress Tracker a transition facilitator should compare his/her ratings with those from another team member who also knows the young person and his/her recent activities to establish inter-observer reliability across the ratings.

**FILE:** TAPIS Progress Tracker v4.1 OVERVIEW 101510