



**Objective:** Evaluation Workgroup for MIG project

**Meeting Date:** 10/08/08

**Meeting Place:** UCE Farmington

**Attendees:** Larry Carlson, Patti Clay, George Ducharme, Kerri Fradette, Cindy Gruman (conference), Glendine Henry, Terry Nowakowski, Amy Porter, Martha Porter (conference), Julie Robison (conference), Noreen Shugrue, Margarita Torres.

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**Action Items from 10/8/08 or earlier:**

Item	Action	Responsibility	Due Date	Status
1.	Draft of benefits counseling report	Cindy	10/31/08	
2.	Report card	Cindy/Noreen	10/31/08	
3.	Infrastructure report	Noreen/Julie		
4.	Present and discuss recent graduate survey to transition workgroup	Noreen	10/9/08	
5.	Draft of Pathways report in to Noreen and Julie	George	12/31/08	

Updates on ongoing activities:

Benefits counseling data/report (Cindy)

- Dividing data into 4 groups: benefits counseling only; vocational rehabilitation only; and 2 groups with BC and VR combined – one which had BC first, one which had VR first.
- Also looking at SSI, SSDI, earnings, employment status, work history, etc., and controlling for variables such as age, gender, entitlement programs, etc. Currently have 36 quarters of data.
- The data is all prepped and cleaned. Methods section drafted. 2/3 of tables populated. Adding a descriptive literature review to provide context, define terms such as VR, and describe CT's programs. Will be stand alone report and plan to publish it as well.
- New target date for draft – end of October.

Report card (Noreen)

- Lot of progress made. New ACS, SSI, SSDI data is out. Will be including data from Mathematica. Report includes 2005 and 2006 SSDI data, as well as 2007 SSDI data. Have earnings report in through 2007.
- Target date – end of October

Infrastructure change report (Noreen)

- UConn near-final draft done.

- Will need to incorporate Amy's latest edits. Also have general comments from MIG team. Good idea to run by MIG team for accuracy and for check on time frame
- UConn will incorporate Amy's and MIG team's edits.

#### Process evaluation (Noreen)

- Ongoing.

#### Recent graduate survey (Noreen)

- Using this to get voice of consumer on the transition side – currently missing this viewpoint. Survey is for those young people 18-25 and not in school anymore – graduation status not a criterion. Have completed multiple focus groups and some interviews with parents and kids in transition.
- Need to reach more kids. Ideas previously offered:
  - Exiter survey – found it would not work.
  - BRS data a possibility.
  - Include BESB data with BRS
  - Possibly college transition coordinators.
  - Would need UConn IRB approval.
- New suggestions:
  - Noreen will present the survey at next transition workgroup meeting to get more information and recruitment ideas from there.
  - New suggestion – Put survey up on shared work website
- Survey status: completing last revisions to survey. Then will send to UConn IRB for approval.

#### Local pilots (Noreen)

- Held webinar training for all pilots, with Noreen, Glendine, and J Morrow (web designer). Went very well.
- Pilots are using internet reporting for all information, so no need for multiple reports. Pilots will file strategic plans there, too

#### Pathways interviews (George)

- 17 interviews completed – 2 more to be done. All interviews are being transcribed.
- Will be consolidating common themes across interviews.
- Sample of individuals is taken solely from callers to C-A 1-800 line. Of first 113 people on list, 37 agreed to short QA about 1-800 call. 22/37 agreed to do Pathways interview. In the end, should have 19 Pathways interviews total.
- Beginning to look at demographics:
  - 14 M – 5 F
  - Regionally throughout state
  - Most aged mid to late twenties, mid thirties. Do not have very young.
- Second round interviews (at 6 month time point) will begin in November.
- First draft will be sent to Noreen/Julie by end of December
- Request for some information to go out to C-A staff earlier

#### State Department of Education surveys (Noreen)

- All surveys are complete with a 100% response rate.
- About 75% of surveys are entered.

#### MPR cost-benefit analysis and possible extension (Cindy)

- Final report is complete. Noreen sent out to Workgroup by email 9/25/08.
- We would like some actual (individual) data vs. hypothetical.
- Asked Mathematica for proposal of this by end of year.

#### Group discussion on parent/student interview process

- Student and parent interviews – have many parents, but not enough students.
- Suggestions to reach more students:
  - Perhaps call individual Transition Coordinators to ask for names of students.
  - Noreen will ask for ideas at Transition meeting as well.
  - Perhaps go to advocacy groups, but may be biased as already seeking help
- Multi pronged approach to reach this population – Exiter survey/SDE/parent and youth interviews and focus groups.
- Report – will each be its own product or one combined. Each one is a lot of work. Perhaps do one at a time.
- Questions all are similar – voice of parents. Focus groups and individual interviews will be reported together.

#### Need for new work group member with transition experience

- Joe Madaus has resigned due to new grant obligations.
- Need someone else on workgroup – with transition experience.
- Two people suggested. However perhaps not right for group.
- Perhaps talk to them about their suggestions.

#### Workgroup meeting schedule

- Proposal accepted to move to quarterly meetings with email review/comment during interim months.
- Suggestion to post all comments about any emailed documents on one live document, vs. everyone emailing back 3 different documents
- Next meeting would be in January – right after local pilot strategic plans are posted.