

**Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
School the Work Transition Workgroup Meeting
January 11, 2007
BRS Central Office
Minutes**

Present: Susan Werboff P&A, Anthony LaCava DRCFC, Walter Glomb, Down Syndrome Congress, Maggie Boyce DRCFC, Barry Rita BESB, Carol Stock Prandy Transition Consultant, Susan Zimmerman FAVOR, Jo-Ellen Wickwire DMR, Karen Stigliano SERC, Jessica Veneziano UCE, Cathy Ludlum MIG Principal Consultant, Glendine Henry BRS, Patti Clay BRS Staff Liaison to Workgroup, Khampasong Khantivong BRS

Absent: Patricia Anderson SDE/BRS, Jane Bolles CPAC, Sara Lourie DCF, Nikki Richer DMHAS, Joyce Emmett Danbury Transition Coordinator, Arlene Lugo BRS/AT

Welcome and Introductions

Patti welcomed everyone and the group introduced themselves. Jessica Veneziano from UCE and Walter Glomb from the Down Syndrome Congress joined the group

Discussion:

- Tony LaCava asked for a show of hands to determine the regional distribution of workgroup members and the distribution of state employees and non-state employees and noted a lack of minority representation.
 - He voiced his concern that most of the workgroup members are state employees and from the Greater Hartford area.
 - All workgroup members were asked to identify additional workgroup members who are not state employees and who live in other areas of the state.
 - Some workgroup members voiced a concern about increasing the size of the group and the difficulty of working with a very large number.
 - A breakdown of workgroup members will be developed for the next meeting.
- Walter Glomb voiced concerns about the lack of parent and student representation on the workgroup.
 - Susan Zimmerman identified herself as the representative from FAVOR and Jane Bolles (who was not in attendance) was identified as the representative from CPAC. Maggie Boyce from DRCFC is also a parent.
 - A representative from the DMR self advocates had been recruited for this workgroup. However, their staff meeting is scheduled at the same time as these meetings. Further efforts will be made to include these self-advocates.
 - Since it is difficult for youth to attend these meetings, the staff liaison has been working with KASA who has agreed to provide input through

electronic dissemination of information and workgroup members attending the KASA meeting.

- Workgroup members will also be important in identifying parents, students, educators and employers to be involved in focus groups to preview materials.
- Workgroup members discussed a number of systems issues they were interested in seeing addressed through this grant.
 - In light of moving forward the five challenge areas that were identified at the Employment Summit and brought to this workgroup by the Steering Committee, the workgroup decided to do the following:
 - Each workgroup member will identify their top five systems issues and e-mail them to the staff liaison at Patti.Clay@ct.gov before the next workgroup meeting.
 - These issues will be brought to the Steering Committee as potential challenges to address later in year one or in year two of this grant.
- Steering committee is planning another Employment Summit for June 2007. This workgroup is asked to think about companies who have successfully provided internships to young adults with disabilities. Awards to these employers may be made at the Summit.
- The workgroup then addressed the key issue of Independent Living Skills. The following are the key messages and methods of dissemination recommended by this workgroup.

Challenge: Assuring Access to Independent Living Skills

Youth	Key message	Method
	You can live independently and be part of the community	Peer messaging/peer mentoring
	I can do this myself/I am doing this myself	Friend support
	You have the same opportunity to work	Involve high school guidance department
	Start early	Encourage age-appropriate responsibilities: Summer Camp, laundry, budgeting
		Inform youth based /faith-based groups on including youth with disabilities (age-appropriate experiences)
		Also provide ongoing technical assistance and support
		Bilingual and culturally appropriate

Parents	Key message	Method
	Kids need to grow up	Bilingual and culturally competent
	Let them go	Training on letting go/peer to peer
	There is an end.	Must be at the local level.

	Yours are not the only shoulders. Help is available.	Transportation available. Childcare available. Food.
	Survival to Hope to Independence	Direct to available resources.
		Message from trusted spokesperson.
		Parent to parent training
		Faith-based /community settings
		Person center planning

Educators	Key message	Method
	All students get Independent Living Skills	Infuse Independent living skills in general Ed classroom
	Age-appropriate	Review teacher training and change to incorporate functional skills
		Practice functional skills in community and in home setting

Employers	Key message	Method
	We have employees who are prepared and ready to go (often get skill building in school)	Social skills training
	Flexibility makes a more productive workforce	Internships and volunteer opportunities
		Training for job placement
		Talk with employers about needed skills
		Schedules
		Accommodations

Next steps:

- Next meeting February 8, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-noon at SERC, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1520. Telephone: 867-632-1485.
 - Remember to enter through the lobby entrance located at the back of the building.
- Review information on work based learning provided at meeting or mailed to absent workgroup members for next meeting.
- Send top five systems issues to Patti Clay at Patti.Clay@ct.gov.
- Send additional recommendations for workgroup members who are non-state employees and who work in areas other than the Greater Hartford area to Patti at the e-mail address above.
- Recommendations for companies who have provided successful internships to students with disabilities to Patti at the e-mail address above.