

**Connect-Ability
Steering Committee
Youth in Transition Workgroup
January 10, 2008
meeting at the
Department of Public Safety
Minutes**

School to Work Transition Workgroup Vision Statement

To provide culturally sensitive training, technical assistance and resource dissemination to increase:

- work based learning opportunities,
- the use and integration of assistive technology,
- an understanding of federal and state benefits,
- opportunities for mentoring, and
- resources to address independent living.

Present: Noreen Shugrue, Carol Stocks-Prandy, Jessica Veneziano, Patricia Anderson, Jo-Ellen Wickwire, Carlos Colon, Karen Stigliano, Nora Bishop, Patti Clay, Khampasong Khantivong

Unable to attend: Cathy Ludlum, Glendine Henry, Sarah Lourie , Anthony LaCava, Susan Werboff, Jane Bolles, Nikki Richer, Joyce Emmett, Walter Glomb, Maggie Boyce, Arlene Lugo, Barry Rita, Susan Zimmerman

Workgroup meeting structure

- Workgroup met as a larger group this month.

General Information

- Last month's meeting was canceled due to weather.
- Reviewed next year's meeting dates and locations. Pat Anderson has scheduled the Department of Public Works and the State Education Resource Center for meetings for 2008. Meeting dates and locations were shared with those attending and will be e-mailed to other workgroup members. Since we had discussed at earlier meetings trying to move the meeting around the state to make it easier for others to attend, anyone who would like to host a meeting should contact Patti for date and place.

Partners for Youth with Disabilities proposal review

- Sarah Callahan, from Partners for Youth with Disabilities, joined the workgroup to review their proposal and answer questions for workgroup members.
 - Two options were proposed to this workgroup. (Proposal provided to workgroup members via e-mail and during the meeting.)

- Option #1 provides for PYD guidance for developing an inclusive mentoring model, developing an RFP and training. At approximately \$20,000.
- Option #2 provides for PYD development of an inclusive mentoring model, RFP and training with this workgroup's input. PYD would assign a staff member to work with this workgroup and the successful bidder. At approximately \$80,000.
- The workgroup decided on option #2.
- Contracts will be developed and PYD will meet with the Youth Participation subgroup February 14, 2008. (Via conference call)
- Several mentoring groups were identified as potential partners for an RFP. Best Buddies, Circle of Friends, and True Colors were mentioned.
- Department of Children and Families (DCF) also has extensive experience in mentoring and will be approached for support in this project.

Baseline data subgroup report to full workgroup

- Noreen Shugrue reviewed the data that has been collected and the methodology developed by the Evaluation Workgroup.
- Pat Anderson discussed the beginning development of survey to schools about work based opportunities for students.
 - Pat will bring draft survey to this subgroup for review in February.
 - Pat would like definitions of different work based options i.e., work-study, job shadow, informational interview, internship, etc. All subgroup members are asked to forward definitions to Pat Anderson.
 - A question on this survey will ask about 504 students and the coordinator for each school/district.
 - Pat proposed tying SDE Indicator 13 with this Connect-Ability baseline data to make it mandatory for schools to respond.
- In response to the suggestion for a fact sheet about benefits for transitioning youth, Joyce Armstrong and Patti Clay have begun working with Francis Cross from Social Security and a group of school personnel to develop this fact sheet.
- CT AHEAD will be contacted for baseline data on two and four-year college students with disabilities.

Web-site content subgroup report to full workgroup

- Patti reported to the workgroup that the YLF team/Connect-Ability advisory group profiles are complete and the designs of the “blog” pages have been reviewed. The Steering Committee Web site Committee has agreed that this blog should be posted as soon as it is finished.
- Group will continue to collect web site links that are useful for young adults and bring a short description about each link.

Youth participation subgroup report to full workgroup

- PYD proposal was the primary activity of this workgroup.

Next Steps

- Subgroups will meet in February; full workgroup will meet in March.

Next Meeting

- February 14, 2008, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- Department of Public Safety
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457
860-685-8190