

**Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
Steering Committee
Youth in Transition Workgroup
February 8, 2007
Minutes**

Present: Patricia Anderson, Walter Glomb, Barry Rita, Susan Zimmerman, Sarah Lourie, Jo-Ellen Wickwire, Carol Stocks-Prandy, Karen Stigliano, Arlene Lugo, Jessica Veneziano, Glendine Henry, Patti Clay, Khampasong Khantivong

Unable to attend: Anthony LaCava, Susan Werboff, Cathy Ludlum, Maggie Boyce, Jane Bolles, Nikki Richer, Joyce Emmett

Guests: Heather Gillette, Chris Knopf, Andrew Begin, Kerri Fradette.

Introductions and review of Workgroup goals

- Workgroup members introduced themselves and Patti Clay reviewed the MIG strategic plan, the Steering Committee and the work that had been assigned to this workgroup by the Steering Committee.

Best method for disseminating information (process)

- Patti Clay and Pat Anderson discussed the need for developing process for the technical assistance materials that will be provided to stakeholder groups. Materials alone are not helpful without helping the student, parent, educator or employer know how to implement the materials.
- Suggestions were made to have companion pieces for each tool explaining how to use them. Support pieces for each stakeholder group would allow partnerships in implementing the tools.
- An example would be a career portfolio for students. The portfolio might provide dividers for information such as: the IEP, disability documentation, career assessments, resumes, etc.. Important information about these different areas could be printed on the divider itself and the portfolio could be made available online.
 - A link would then be made for parents on their section of a web site with instructions on how to support the young adult using this portfolio. It could also provide information about how it could be integrated into the school program and help for parents in requesting this support.
 - Another link could be made for educators with suggestions for including this portfolio in classroom activities.
 - And another link could be made providing examples of letters of reference, etc. that employers could provide to students for their portfolios.

Employment Summit

School to Work Transition Internship Recognition

- Workgroup members are collecting recommendations for employers to be recognized at the Summit for providing outstanding internship opportunities.
- Workgroup members decided to separate out recommendations for programs that are paid internships and employers who provide work opportunities through schools.

Ongoing recommendations to the Steering Committee

- Workgroup members are developing a list of recommendations to the Steering Committee for systems change issues to consider in the future.

Key messages for information on Work Based Learning Opportunities

- The following Key messages were developed for work based learning opportunities. These were not broken out by stakeholder group because many seemed to be applicable to all groups.
 - Discover your dreams
 - Build a plan
 - Explore your future
 - Start early
 - A job is a first step to a career
 - Building a career is a process
 - Graduation isn't the end – it's the beginning
 - Life starts after graduation
 - Messages don't have to be geared only to students with disabilities – all students have to be prepared
 - More images, less words, emotional grab (i.e. messages to join Army)
 - Message that it's about "our kids"
 - Message to educators: career guidance is for everyone
 - Message to students: don't take no for an answer
 - Educate your parents
 - Educate/challenge your parents/teachers
 - Don't take "you can't" for an answer
 - Aim high
 - If you work in HS – will lead to employment as an adult
 - Challenge yourself and your team
 - Try it – You'll like it
 - \$
 - No reason you can't want what everyone wants
 - Working is more than money
 - Spending money – car, clothes, etc.
 - If you think you want to work – don't be afraid to ask
 - Your interest is what counts
 - Work is the lab of life
 - Get the skills to pay the bills
 - Do what you want/what do you want to do?

Review and provide feedback to Mintz & Hoke on "campaign" Key Messages

- Workgroup members provided feed back to Mintz and Hoke on overall Key messages.

Next meeting

Thursday, March 8, 2007

SERC (State Education Resource Center) Middletown

SERC 25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457-1520
Telephone: (860) 632-1485 – FAX: (860) 632-8870

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I-84 East to Exit 27 (Route 691 East). Travel on Route 691 to Exit 11 (I-91 North). I-91 North to Exit 21. Right onto Route 372 West. Pass under I-91 and take a left onto Industrial Park Road (Mobil Station). SERC is housed in a State Office building, the last building on the right (approximately 1-1/2 miles).

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Route 66 all the way until after crossing the Portland Bridge (in Middletown). Take first left and go down the hill to Route 9. Take a left onto Route 9 North. Take Exit 19, Route 372 West until just past the Radisson Inn. Take a left onto Industrial Park Road (Mobil Station). SERC is housed in a State Office building, the last building on the right (approximately 1-1/2 miles).

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