

**Connect-Ability
Steering Committee
Youth in Transition Workgroup**

June 14, 2007

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: Patricia Anderson, Sarah Lourie, Cathy Ludlum, Susan Zimmerman, Jessica Veneziano, Maggie Boyce, Jo-Ellen Wickwire, Jane Bolles, Patti Clay, Khampasong Khantivong

Unable to attend: Barry Rita, Arlene Lugo, Karen Stigliano, Anthony LaCava, Susan Werboff, Nikki Richer, Joyce Emmett, Walter Glomb, Glendine Henry, Carlos Colon

Workplan Review

- Work plans were reviewed and revised to be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval
- The work plans were developed on a "logic model" that provides for outcomes, outputs, activities and inputs.
- The workgroup decided all work plans should invert the order and have outcomes listed first. They also decided to use the term "youth and young adults" in place of *students*, "families" in place of *parents* and "professionals" in place of *educators*.
- Under the work plan for integrating assistive technology they can follow from school to work, the workgroup made several recommendations.
 - The workgroup recommended that a baseline survey done with the local level initiatives and follow-ups every other year would be the primary mechanism for measuring awareness.
 - They also recommended using the term "universal use of technology" rather than assistive technology (AT) as a more acceptable terms to youth and young adults.
- Recommendations regarding the work plan for understanding benefits primarily revolved around the materials to be developed for technical assistance and web site content. Recommendations included:
 - Frequently asked questions and *red flag* questions that could prompt web site or training content. Example: I can't work because I'll lose my benefits.

- A benefits video to put online they could be used at meetings, etc. to provide information when CWICs (benefits specialists) are not available. The video could be of a training given to young adults, families or professionals. These videos would be accompanied with fact sheets on handouts to use as a training tool. Professional version would be different than the young adult/family version.
- Recommendations for the work plan for Independent Living were primarily around using the term "independence" rather than "independent living" given that the focus is most often increasing independence and not necessarily living alone.
 - The workgroup suggested that information be gathered from established mentor to create the best practices to be used when providing technical assistance.
- Recommendations for the work plan for increased work based opportunities included having this workgroup define a continuum of work based opportunities.
- The work plan for youth participation did not get reviewed at this meeting due to lack of time. Workgroup members decided to send comments to Patti.
- All other recommendations are included in the revised work plans that will be attached to these minutes.

Workgroup Composition

Fact sheet Review

- The workgroup reviewed the Fact Sheet and made several suggestions. The fact sheet will be revised and redistributed to workgroup members.

Meeting Frequency

- Year one goals will be reviewed at the next meeting the based upon the current work plans. At that time, based upon those goals, workgroup members will determine how often they will meet in the next year.

Questions to Ask Young Adults

- Young adults will be asked to review the Fact Sheet.

Update on Other Workgroups and Steering Committee

- Patti gave a quick update of the Steering Committee and other workgroups.
- Employment Summit updates were provided and all workgroup members have been invited.

Next Steps

- Workgroup members will be asked to review work plan revisions and Fact Sheet revisions.
- Year one goal implementation and meeting schedule will be developed.
- Work group members will continue to identify youth and young adults to participate with this workgroup.

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 12, 2007

BESB (Board Of Education Services for the Blind)

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FROM SOUTH OF HARTFORD:

From I-91, take Exit 34, Route 159 – Windsor/Wilson off I-91.

At the end of the ramp cross the street into BESB's parking lot.

FROM NORTH OF HARTFORD:

From I-91, take Exit 34 off I-91. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto North Main Street (Hartford). Go under the highway underpass, straight through the traffic light, and past the gas station, and take a right into BESB's parking lot.

FROM EAST OF HARTFORD:

From either I-84 West or Route 2 West, proceed towards Hartford. Take the exit for I-91 North. Take Exit 34, Route 159 – Windsor/Wilson off I-91. At the end of the ramp, cross the street into BESB's parking lot.

From 291, take Exit 3, Route 159 – Windsor/Wilson. Turn left at second light. Proceed 3/4 mile. Turn left at light onto Windsor Avenue, just before bridge. First left is the BESB parking lot.

FROM WEST OF HARTFORD:

From I-84, take the exit for I-91 North. Take Exit 34, Route 159 – Windsor/Wilson off I-91. At the end of the ramp, cross the street into BESB's parking lot.

NOTE: There are two entrances for the building: the left entrance is for Administration, Adult Services, Children's Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation. The right entrance is for the Low Vision Center and CRIS Radio.

Please use the left entrance