

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

July 12, 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:** Cathy Ludlum, Jo-Ellen Wickwire, Glendine Henry, Arlene Lugo, Nora Bishop, Barry Rita, Patti Clay, Khampasong Khantivong

**Unable to attend:** Patricia Anderson, Sarah Lourie, Karen Stigliano, Susan Zimmerman, Jessica Veneziano, Maggie Boyce, Anthony LaCava, Susan Werboff, Jane Bolles, Nikki Richer, Joyce Emmett, Walter Glomb, Carlos Colon

**Final Review of Work Plans and Fact Sheet**

- Draft work plans for all five goal areas were reviewed and final recommendations were suggested
- Some specific suggestions were made in regard to the activities:
  - For web site content in the benefits area it was suggested that a video be used to provide information. It was also suggested that there be a list of information a young adult should bring to a meeting with a CWIC (benefit specialist). They also suggested that the web site content include a list of the types of benefits that would be reviewed and a list that defines what those benefits include.
  - In the area of assistive technology suggestions were made that the web site content should include a glossary of terms. It should also include information about who may own the AT when the student graduates. It was also noted that it will be important for schools to understand not only the availability of the Connect-Ability web site but also make sure that schools do not block access to the site.
- Copies of these revisions to the draft work plans will be attached to these minutes.
- Draft work plans will be submitted to the Steering Committee at the July 19, 2007 retreat for their review and approval.

**Review of Year One Goals**

- Based upon the draft work plans, year one goals were reviewed for feasibility.
- The major year one activities are primarily grouped into
  - developing baseline data

- developing web site content
  - developing youth and young adult participation
- The workgroup decided to develop three subgroups to tackle these areas. Each subgroup will develop their own meeting schedule and agenda to complete activities. Workgroup members will be asked to select a subgroup.

### **Workgroup Updates**

- Glendine Henry updated the group on the RFP. Final approval is still pending and Glendine hopes it will be ready for distribution by the end of July.

### **Questions for Youth/Young Adults**

- There were no specific questions developed for young adults at this time.

### **Additional information**

- Nora Bishop, who has been working with the National Governor's Association Policy Academy (NGA) core team, joined the group and provided information about the purpose and activities of the NGA. She also shared the new NGA web site, "CT School to Work Transition GPS". This is a searchable database that provides information on the eligibility requirements and services provided by Connecticut State agencies that work with youth and young adults. Nora will continue working with this workgroup to maximize the shared goals of these two projects.

### **Next Steps**

- Draft work plans will be submitted to the Steering Committee.
- Workgroup members will be asked to choose a subgroup to begin working on year one goals.
- New meeting dates developed.

### **Next Meeting**

- August 9, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- Place to Be Determined