

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

August 9, 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, Patricia Anderson, Susan Zimmerman, Jessica Veneziano, Glendine Henry, Arlene Lugo, Nora Bishop, Noreen Shugrue, Patti Clay, Khampasong Khantivong

Unable to attend: Jo-Ellen Wickwire, Barry Rita, Sarah Lourie, Karen Stigliano, Anthony LaCava, Susan Werboff, Jane Bolles, Nikki Richer, Joyce Emmett, Walter Glomb, Carlos Colon

Evaluation

- Noreen Shugrue from UConn Health Center, the evaluation team for Connect-Ability, joined our workgroup to discuss the evaluation plan.
- The evaluation committee decided to focus on the needs assessment and look at how barriers were reduced/removed in five years.
- Needs identified in the initial assessment were:
 - need for skills training (life and employment), lack of school involvement, improve services for long-term care or prison, starting transitioned too late, limited availability of transition services, scope of transition services often limited, lack of mentoring programs.
- Pat Anderson is a member of the evaluation committee and Patti Clay will begin attending these committee meetings.
- One major area of workgroup activities for the remainder of 2007 and 2008 will be developing baseline data for the goal areas. The evaluation committee can help develop new surveys and assist in sending, collecting data etc.
- A subgroup will be developed to decide what will be collected and how it will be collected. Noreen has agreed to work with this subgroup.
- Existing data from the WIPA Grant, the CT Tech Act Project and SDE will be gathered to review as soon as possible.
- All systems transformation that does take place must be documented. It is important to note any outside activities, i.e. NGA, OWC, etc.

Review of Year One Goals

- The major year one activities are primarily grouped into
 - developing baseline data
 - developing web site content
 - developing youth and young adult participation
- In addition to baseline data on independent living in a the development of web site content in this area, statewide mentoring programs will be approached to explore integrating these programs with students and mentors who have disabilities and providing technical assistance.
- The Connect-Ability Steering Committee will be meeting with Mintz & Hoke in the beginning of September to plan web site Phase 2 strategies.
 - The YLF team leadership project, benefits videos, YLF or other leadership information and a "CT Youth in Action" page to highlight Connecticut youth accomplishments (e.g. disability history legislation) and other ideas from this committee will be presented for planning purposes.
 - Explore the beginning of "professional" section on web site.
- Subgroups were established:
 - Baseline Data subgroup: **Pat Anderson** (lead), Nora Bishop and Jo-Ellen Wickwire.
 - Web site Content subgroup: **Susan Zimmerman and Arlene Lugo** (lead), Nora Bishop, Cathy Ludlum.
 - Youth Participation subgroup: **Jessica Veneziano** and Susan Zimmerman
 - Other workgroup members will be asked to choose a subgroup
- Workgroup meetings will continue monthly on the second Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-noon. Workgroup meetings will alternate one month consisting of full meeting with workgroup report outs and the next meeting will be three consecutive 45-minute subgroup meetings.
- September 13 meeting will be as follows:
 - Baseline Data Subgroup: 9:30 a.m.
 - Web Site Content Subgroup: 10:15 a.m.
 - Youth Participation Subgroup: 11 a.m.

Workgroup Updates

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

Questions for Youth/Young Adults

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

Next Steps

- School to Work Transition Workgroup work plans will be presented at the October Connect-Ability Steering Committee meeting.
- Subgroups will begin activities for each goal.

Next Meeting

- September 13, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- University Center for Excellence

Directions to: The University of Connecticut's A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service

The Exchange – Suite 181 (860) 679-1500

From Interstate 84 East or West:

Exit 39, Farmington, Route 4

At 1st stoplight, turn right onto Route 4 East (Farmington Avenue)

Get in left lane

Go 1.1 miles to 3rd stoplight

Turn left at light into The Exchange, 270 Farmington Avenue

Once you have turned into this main entrance of The Exchange:

At 1st stop sign, turn left

On your right, there will be an entrance to Building 4 – there is no sign here, but next to the door is an office with large windows

Park near and go in that entrance

- Suite 181 is on your right