

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

September 11, 2007

meeting at the

University Center for Excellence, A.J. Pappanikou Center

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: Maggie Boyce, Jessica Veneziano, Susan Zimmerman, Karen Stigliano, Patricia Anderson, Jo-Ellen Wickwire, Arlene Lugo, Nora Bishop, Barry Rita, 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, Carlos Colon

Workgroup meeting structure

- Workgroup held three sequential subgroups to address 2007/2008 goals
- Subgroups consisted of baseline data, web site content and youth participation

Baseline data subgroup

- Based upon the work plan, the following four areas were identified for baseline data
 1. Work based opportunities for students
 - Identified through schools
 - Identified through CRPs
 2. Awareness of benefits
 3. Awareness of assistive technology and assistive technology funding
 4. State-level transition initiatives
 - Identified through the NGA resource map
 - Identified through SERC
 - Identified through the Youth Vision Team and other initiatives
- Existing instruments and data resources were identified as well as the tools used in collecting the data

Instruments/Data Resources	Tools
Age-appropriate programs	SDE survey

Including 12-21 year-olds #82 coding on survey gives info on 18-21-year-olds	
Survey districts-older information	SDE survey
PERC-ongoing/current with database	SDE survey
Transition Task Force CRP Resource Manual	Lists providers working with students and adults
DDS, BRS and BESB	Agency vendor lists-description of services by provider
DMHAS/DCF Infoline project	?
DMHAS Employment and Education	Survey and database
CT Tech Act	Survey to schools and data
WIPA (BRS Social Security grant)	Database

- Group decided that a newer version of surveys needs to developed
 - SDE will take the lead on creating the survey (with committee input) and sending it out.
 - UConn will assist in survey development, dissemination and data collection
- Data collected from various sources needs to have shared meaning in terms of definitions of services, etc.

Web-site content subgroup

- Group recommended focus groups of youth and adults to review current site to determine what is missing
 - Two groups already identified are YLF and KASA
 - Stipends are recommended
 - Potential sites are NEAT and SCSU because each have technology labs with multiple computer terminals
- Sort through feedback previously received from web site
 - Patti will inquire about this at web-site retreat September 17, 2007
- Check accessibility features
 - Not all links are open in a new windows as previously recommended
- All links should have a short narrative to explain their relevant merits
- Group members will bring links of good resources with brief explanations of the resource to the November subgroup meeting
- Ideally focus groups will be held before November workgroup meeting
- Coordinate with evaluation committee to find out the web site questions being developed
 - Can the same questions be used for the focus groups?

Recommended new content	Recommended new content
Information on IEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District requirements • Expectations 	Links to SDE, SERC, DOL and other relevant web sites

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postsecondary goals (where to place on current IEP) 	
Explanation of District ability to educate 18-21-year-olds	Question-and-answer fact sheets
Explanation of School District requirements	Tools for education professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will need content
Video presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benefits counseling • self-advocacy • social skills • assistive technology (already in progress) 	NGA web site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where/how does it fit? • Homepage?
Independent living skills	BRS transition committee toolkit
Information for including youth in leadership opportunities	

Youth participation subgroup

- Subgroup members discussed the need for adults to change the way they think about providing opportunities to youth and expand beyond those currently being considered
 - Not only going to groups of youths for their input or including youth in committees, etc, but also seeking out opportunities to help youth understand the benefit of developing leadership opportunities and individually mentoring youth to find appropriate leadership openings.
 - Subgroup members will explore different avenues for supporting youth in leadership avenues. They will also identify three youth/young adults to think about supporting in a new way for November meeting.
- In addition, subgroup members will contact groups of youths to find out if members of this workgroup could develop a relationship with them. Groups identified are: YLF (Patti), DDS self advocates (Jo-Ellen), CT-KASA (Susan Z.), YAU (Susan Z.), Disability Resource Centers for Colleges, BRS transition counselors (Patti), ILCs (Tony), and Fairfield Recreation (Tony)*.* (names in parentheses will contact group)
- Want to explore incentives for youth to attend or become involved in leadership activities.
- Identify leadership resources for young adults to use when they are looking for opportunities.
 - Put resources on Connect-Ability web site
 - Promote YLF
 - Develop IEP Advocacy Fact Sheet

Next Steps

- Full workgroup will meet in October; subgroups will meet again in November.

Next Meeting

- October 11, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- FAVOR, Rocky Hill