

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

October 11, 2007

meeting at

FAVOR, Inc.

Minutes (revised)

**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:** Jessica Veneziano, Susan Zimmerman, Jo-Ellen Wickwire, Arlene Lugo, Nora Bishop, Barry Rita, Patti Clay, Khampasong Khantivong, Cathy Ludlum, Carlos Colon, Allie Jodaitis

**Unable to attend:** Sarah Lourie, Anthony LaCava, Susan Werboff, Jane Bolles, Nikki Richer, Joyce Emmett, Walter Glomb, Karen Stigliano, Patricia Anderson, Glendine Henry, Maggie Boyce

**Full Workgroup**

- Update on other grant activity
- Local level initiative RFQ's have been postponed once again by DSS contracts
  - evaluation tool is ready and Glendine is putting together a Review Committee
  - goal is to start buying January 2008
  - Glendine will send e-mail to all of us with an attachment to share with our contacts as soon as the RFQ is released
- New Able Lives episodes, paid for by Connect-Ability, will start in October
- Employers are beginning to contact Connect-Ability and Kerri has begun setting up appointments to meet with them
- This workgroup suggested targeting marketing to educators, guidance counselors, paraprofessionals, regional education resource centers (RESCs), SERC, and youth service bureaus and developing a "poster" to send to schools, One Stops, etc.
- Workgroup asked if the new videos been updated on YouTube
- E-mail listserv-workgroup asked that all workgroup members be notified of additions to web site or updates

### **Baseline data subgroup (report out to the full workgroup)**

- Pat Anderson will begin working on the updated survey of work-based opportunities in secondary schools. She will bring questions to this workgroup for review and coordinate with Noreen Shugrue, UConn.
- Patti will work with Noreen on other baseline data that was identified by the subgroup.

### **Web-site content subgroup (report out to the full workgroup)**

- Workgroup feels strongly that focus groups of parents and young adults are important to identify gaps in materials
- Survey questions developed by evaluations workgroup will be reviewed to use in these focus groups
- NGA web site ([www.CTschooltowork.com](http://www.CTschooltowork.com)) should be incorporated into the Connect-Ability web site
- Group suggested ads on MySpace and YouTube
- Also suggested contacting secondary and post secondary school guidance offices, high school web sites, college web sites and school district special ed directors
- Arlene will explore using Key to Access to help translate information into Spanish.
- Jessica will draft something focused toward students.
  - She will look at the DDS web site. Carlos will bring a booklet to help young adults lead their own IEP team meetings and Jo-Ellen will bring a packet of information.
- Workgroup members are asked to bring relevant web sites with a short annotation to next web site content subgroup meeting.

### **Youth participation subgroup (report out to the full workgroup)**

- Workgroup agreed to outreach to youth groups for their participation
  - Carlos Colón is willing to contact DDS Self Advocates and will talk with Robin Wood to see if they are willing to the part of a focus group or provide ongoing feedback. Carlos will now be able to be a regular member of this workgroup. Patti expects to meet with YLF group before November meeting
- Workgroup will also continue working on alternative approaches to supporting young adults in leadership activities and development
- Workgroup felt that mentoring falls under Youth Participation subgroup to encourage leadership
- To proceed on the goal of increasing mentoring availability throughout the state:
  - Patti contacted Partners for Youth with Disabilities who is willing to work with this workgroup and statewide mentoring programs
    - Patti will work with PYD to see if they have had experience working with youth with mental health disabilities
    - Will get proposal and invite to the November meeting

## **Next Steps**

- Subgroups will meet again in November.

## **Next Meeting**

- November 8, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-noon
- BRS office, 414 Chapel St, New Haven 06511