

# *Transition CoP Advisory Council*

## **Meeting Minutes –December 22, 2021**

**Attending:** Lea Kugel, Marsha Knutson, Roxane Romanick, Cynthia Wagner-Goulet, Judy Garber, Rikki Trageton, Kiara Crosby, Jami Svor, Linette Irwin, Heather Kapella, Barbara Burghart, Mary Robinson, Katie Richards, Renee Wetzsteon, Kirsten Dvorak, Julianna Horntvedt, Jeannie Krull, Donene Feist, Amanda Francis, Michael Netzloff, Laurie Skadsem, Kerrie Oster, Ruth Lacher, Ann Beste-Guldborg, Beth Larson-Steckler, Wendy Dannenfelzer, Michael Netzloff

**Welcome:** Lea opened the meeting up and thanked everyone that was able to make it. She announced that Mark Ehrmantraut had resigned from the NDDPI to re-enter a previous career choice. Haley Lang was new to the NDDPI.

### **ND Transition CoP:**

**Mission:** To work towards building, supporting, and sustaining community partnerships and systems that promote and improve the scope, opportunity, and quality for youth with disabilities to adequately prepare for life and career beyond high school with the individualized necessary supports identified and in place before graduation/exit.

- CoP continues the Advisory Council as a state team and adds a new and ongoing connections to regional teams.
- The membership on this council is actively involved in sharing practices and working on transition issues for students with disabilities with those in other agencies and family members across the state.

### **Membership Updates and Sharing:**

**Barb Burghart; Vocational Rehabilitation:** Has a new Pre-Ets Contract with East-Central Special Education Unit and Bishop Ryan, the first private school to hold a contract. Continue merging with the Department of Health, took over the Experience Works Program which is currently called SCCEP.

**Amanda Francis; Behavioral Health:** Has been keeping schools up to date with behavioral health resources. Will share information about Kognito.

**Cynthia Wagner Goulet; Protection & Advocacy:** Client Assistance Program (CAP) - Increase outreach, contract with Russ Kusak to do virtual outreach or in-person. The number of clients they are working with is down due to Covid-19. They gave finished and printed booklets, one on supportive decision making and guardianship and the other is on individual justice planning to support through involvement with Criminal Justice.

**Heather Kapelle, Department of Health, Special Health Services:** Have been working with child and adolescent health to increase well child visits, working on ideas to do that. Working with the United African Group in GFs to help educate on annual visits.

**Judy Garber: Peace Garden /Northern Places Social Worker:** Social Groups and Transition Groups, Are offering a cafeteria menu for educators to watch a video or go online, hours count towards graduation

credits. Transition presentations have been happening this year. Both live and virtual transitions. Helps support staff turnover and new staff training. VR, Job Services, and Job C to go to the schools and talk to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Are planning a field trip for students in May.

**Julie Horntvedt, DD Counsel:** Finished their new five-year plan in October will be concentrating in transition age youth.

**Donene Feist, Family Voices of ND:** Have been working on transition guides for health and will be piloting them soon. Holds monthly extended learning calls and is looking for anyone who is interested in presenting.

**Laurie Skadsem:** Visited with Rachel Bus from Annie's House – 263-4556 is accepting tours at this time. Contact them to schedule.

**Jeanie Krull ND Assistive:** Loan program is free. 74% increase. Let her know of anyone who needs assistance. There is an inventory available on their website. There is a fee for AT assessments, and they offer free demonstrations of equipment.

**Kiara Crosby, Northern Plans:** PAESE labs, two districts (Stanley and Divide County) were able to get them. Helping assist with the schools to get the programs running. Transition program is growing (40 kids from 5 schools), and they are getting creative on how to continue to grow the program.

**Kirsten Dvorak, ARC:** Finishing up year end budgets. Completed a training on transition with ARC National. Will be posting the training on their Youtube Channel. Continuing programming in retail programs, looking to expand into Bismarck. Looking into increase Peer Mentoring programs, trainings to hopefully come in 2022.

**Katie Richards; NDUS Disability Service Provider:** Mental Health in the universities is a major focus currently, with virtual classes, service animals, etc. Many of the out of state students do not know that they must advocate for themselves for college services.

**Ruth Lacher, Job Services:** WIOA Adult Dislocated Worker and Youth Program -funds are available currently. 75% of funds need to be spend on youth out of school, and 25% of the funds can be spent on in school youth. Job Service will complete eligibility screening for the youth who may want to get into the program. Job service is willing to present to schools or others who may be interested.

**Marsha Director for Northern Plans SEU:** Cafeteria Menu and PAESE labs have been working well.

**Mary Robinson, Dakota Center for Independent Living:** Back into the High School for Driver/Permit Services. They are currently serving 72 students through the program and are in Legacy and Standing Rock. They are trying to get into South Central to offer the services. Youth Group has been busy, did a booth for the behavioral health conference in October where they shared materials with over 200 people. In November, they hosted a movie night where three new people came. They are planning for the Conference that will take place in August. John wants to start a youth group across the state of ND. Transit will run from 8:00 am-9:00 pm for transportation on Christmas Day, and the CAT buses will not be running. Green Dot training will be facilitated by AARC, focus on safe intervening with domestic violence.

**Michael Netzloff, Department of CTE:** Has wrapped up program eval. visits to high schools and post-secondary programs. Has conducted four Civil Rights Reviews (3 high schools and one post-secondary program) to look at access for all students for CTE programming. Currently the state authorizes private career post-secondary schools for Occupational Associate licenses in massage, welding, medical transcription.

**Renee Wetzsteon, ND Federation of Families:** Busy working with parents. YESS! Christmas Party was a success with 25-30 people in attendance, Youth Empowering Social Status is looking to expand throughout the state and looking for students aged 14 and above.

**Ann Beste-Guldborg, IMPCCT:** Currently three programs: ASTEP (Minot) Contact tracey.olson.1@minotstate.edu: REACH (Bismarck) Contact katherine.millner@bsc.edu, INSPIRE (Bottineau) contact penny.belgarde@dakotacollege.edu, They are looking to start two new programs in the state. All programs are recruiting. Working with LEAs, SEU, to provide Professional Development to prepare students with ID for college experiences. Put out a needs assessment to present at conferences and publish them online.

**Rikki Trageton Community Living Services:** Service provider with the High Schools in GF and smaller districts, extremely busy supporting students at volunteer sights and small work group experiences. Everyone in Fargo is hiring and employers are willing to work with students with disabilities.

**Jami Svor West Fargo SEU:** High Schools are moving to an academy model (Health Science, Engineer, and more. Still have core classes, but also more career focused avenues for students. Students will be able to change their mind) plus adding a career academy. Currently have a lot of students employed and working. Next year one high school will implement the academy model, and two high schools will pilot. The following year, the two other high schools will fully implement them.

**Roxane Romanick; Parent and Designer Genes of ND:** Elizabeth has 4 classes left to get an associates degree. She is currently in her own apartment on campus. **Designer Genes:** working with P&A and Family Voices opening [ABLE accounts](#), states looking at exploration on Guardianships. Administrates see them as temporary and families are having difficulties setting them up. States are changing regulations to make it easier for families to open the accounts. Will get out a fact sheet to help families navigate it. Bill 2269 to allow students to use foundation aide payments to attend post-secondary institutions. The bill has gone to the Attorney Generals Office for review and to be finalized. Bill 2256 Eligibility for DD and Medical waivers, currently in a study. Services and supports come this, hearings are livestreamed and can be watched later. The next hearing will take place January 11. NDCEC Conference will be Feb 3-5 in Bismarck. OSEP New Director is Valorie Williams has a son with DS and was a special education teacher.

### **Presentation:**

NDDPI: Currently getting stakeholder response for baseline and targets that have been set for the 2020-2025 ND State Performance Plan (SPP) There are 17 indicators that are measured. NDDPI has links set up to obtain stakeholder input at [Stakeholder Engagement Indicators 1, 2, 13, 14, & 17.](#)

Amanda Francias:

[Kognito](#) – Senate Bill 2311 Funded Kognito for all school personnel, public and private. It will be available free of charge through 2024. Kognito is an evidence based online virtual mental health and suicide prevention program. Teachers practice for situations that may really happen in classrooms and with parents. There are modules available for elementary, middle and high school personnel. Platform also offers resources and tools to use for district-wide training that meets the requirement for eight hours of mental health training.

[Parents Lead](#): Campaign to provide high risk parents and caregivers resources, tips and tools. Supports parents by promoting behavioral health of students. Schools can order materials and have them on-hand at the school. There will be a “in the classroom” section coming soon that will be included on the website which will address behavioral health in the classroom.

Beth Larson-Steckler:

[Life Launch](#): VR, Self-advocacy, Self-Directed IEPs. Offers a curriculum and workbooks that can be shared free of charge. Pathfinders can facilitate the training or train the trainer. Covers resources for youth as they transition. The youth are assisted in creating binders/portfolios that contain necessary documents they may need after graduation.

[Take Charge of your life](#): Triggers ques, working with school personnel, student led IEPs.,

#### **Transition Issues and Concerns:**

No concerns were shared.

#### **NDDPI updates:**

#### **Regional Community of Practice Updates:**

**Region 1:** No Updates shared.

**Region 2:** Judy Garber: reported that they are meeting later this afternoon. They have a lot of new people and changes to the program.

**Region 3:** No Updates shared.

**Region 4:** No Updates shared.

**Region 5:** Jami Svor: Meeting Monthly for the last 6-8 months. Have been planning for a transition conference that will take place April 1. Finalizing topics to present and lining up speakers/vendors.

**Region 6:** No Updates shared.

**Region 7:** The region hasn't met this quarter.

**Region 8:** No Updates shared.

#### **CoP Priorities for the 2021-2022 School year:**

**Next Meeting:** Pre-Ets contractors and providers will meet on **March 16 from 8:30-9:30**, will be held virtually. Transition Community of Practice Advisory Council **March 16 from 9:30-3:00**, will be held

virtually. All ND Transition CoP members are invited to attend the Pre-Ets contractor and providers meeting before the ND CoP meeting. Lea will send an invitation with the link later. If anyone has any ideas for agenda items, please share prior to the next meeting.

**Topics for next meeting:**

Senate Bill 2269: Post-Secondary Training Programs

SPP/APR Results on Indicators 1, 2, 13, 14, & 17

Closing the Achievement Gap Research Study