

Transition CoP Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2024

Welcome and review of ND CoP Mission: Jen welcomed everyone to the meeting. She shared a quote, “High school graduation is not the endgame. The career is the endgame. High school is the launchpad.” The schedule and the Mission Statement were reviewed.

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.

The council reviewed the number of meetings noted on the webpage. The team voted in favor of meeting 3 times/year versus 4 times/year. Jen will update this on the website. Barb volunteered to be notetaker. The team determined it is still beneficial to hold hybrid meetings even with technological difficulties, stating it is a better turnout when hybrid is offered.

Membership Updates and Sharing:

Jenifer Updike, NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services: Providing updates during NDDPI Update portion of the meeting.

Morgan Edmunson, NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services: Works as a Regional Coordinator and holds portfolios for Student Contracts, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Residential/Correctional Facilities. No major updates. Just a reminder that OSEP is coming in January.

Sarah Duven, Anne Carlson: This is Sarah’s first Transition CoP meeting. She works with transition age students at Anne Carlson.

Ruth Lacher, Job Service: Runs a youth program including work experience -can also pay for post-secondary education-funding hold right now for adults.

Jen Smart, DD program manager out of Fargo: First Transition CoP meeting. Jen is the Region 5 chair.

Barb Burghart, ND VR: Meeting 15% of Pre-Employment.

Jeff Anderson, Cass County ARC: Works with Jen Smart. Was on the Transition CoP a few years ago, but now he is back . Spoke of 2 new scholarships and the annual banquet last night. 2 scholarships- one for youth with disabilities and people who want to go into spec ed.

Eliason Bullock, Youth Correctional Center: Many students are getting their GED rather than graduating. Many are passing the GED test. Graduation was moved to one time per quarter. VR and Job Service has a presence there and come to the IEP meetings. Some students are on work crew.

Colette Fleck, Standing Rock Community Schools: Two students graduated from Lynes welding. Is doing BIE special education surveys. Students are working on self-advocacy. Receiving new equipment for the radio show. The students produced a video about Standing Rock reservation. Doing driving classes. Students toured some colleges and Job Corps, and a former student gave the tour. Toured Bobcat. Had a college application day. Are having a community fair next week. She shared an awesome music video 13 students in the Warrior radio show wrote and produced.

Tracey Olson, NDCDP ASTEP and IMPCCT Projects: 6 graduates this year. Programs in Valley City, NDSU and Bottineau. Are looking for new students,. Many programs are 3-year tracks and the fee is \$2000 per year for NDSU and Bottineau programs ASTEP is 8000 per year. Some scholarships are available. Some school districts can contribute funding for students who have not exited. Students can get paraprofessional degrees, reception service, computers, medical transcription, etc.

Jackie Teskey, Wilmac Special Education Unit:

Karla Magnuson, Wilmac Special Education Unit: Looking forward to hearing about the virtual headsets.

Heidi Budeau, Jamestown and James River Special Education Director: Jamestown High school. Planning a career fair. Have a Pre-ETS contract with VR. Region 6 Lead.

Jessica Pankow, Upper Valley Special Education Unit: Adult Transition for Upper Valley at Grafton special education. Working on balancing the lower and higher functioning students along with staff shortages.

Sara Kapp-ND Behavioral Health: Guest speaker

Kayla Stasny, ND Behavioral Health: Cognito Friend to Friend Modules-5 modules available for students related to bullying, mental health, etc. Will send the website. Behavioral Health school grant, 25 special ed districts are eligible, 19 spots secured. 1950i is going to Medicaid

Heather Kapella: Children's special health services. Special healthcare needs and school nurse. Transition from pediatric to adult healthcare. They have clinics in the community. Are doing a needs assessment, a transition healthcare assessment to assist youth in taking over healthcare needs. Northern Plains Special Education Unit is currently using this. Also have a check and connect program

Rikki Trageton, Community Living Services: Works with VR on a Pre-ETS contract in Fargo and West Fargo. Difficulty finding staff. Fargo cannot find employees.

Katie Sims, Federation of Families: Federation of Families received a new grant. One staff covers Devils Lake, the other is statewide.

Kirsten Dvorak, ARC: Also a parent of a student that attended ASTEP

Beth Ziman, Oliver-Mercer Special Education Unit Director: No updates

Julie Horntvedt, NDSDCDD: (DD Council) Fall Advocacy Training coming up. Safety on the Internet is one training occurring Nov 20th. Can attend virtually. There are other trainings on various things like Smart Watches to Track Health etc. October is National Guardianship month. They've made 3 videos on alternatives to guardianship. Age 8-13 training for emotional support for students of siblings of disabilities. Beginning a new state plan. Would like feedback on the plan. Advocacy conference on March 24th in Fargo. It is free to attend. Holiday Inn from 10-4.

Kiara Crosby, Northern Plains Special Education Unit: Working on training and building up new staff.

Jodi Webb, Pathfinder: multiple federal grants. They are the Parent Training Center and assist parents and youth with understanding their rights. They offer training-one is on student-led IEPs done by a student. CHASE program works with justice involved youth. Youth POV is looking for youth age 14-21 who are in high school or recently graduate. It is a peer to peer program. See the flyer for more information and if you know of a student who may be interested. Pathfinder offers an annual conference. YETI is the national youth group-the group creates resources - developing a website-YEN - offer tech assistance to other states on how to work with VR and IL services. Youth homelessness is for those ages 14-24 years olds. They are going on year three and have resources. Highly focused on Regions 1 & 3 and looking to expand.

Casey Johnson, ND DHHS, DD Division: First Transition CoP meeting. Residential and vocational administration. Has taken over for Wendy.

Nick Murphy, Protection and Advocacy, Grand Forks: Also on the Region 4 CoP. Hired a new attorney, and Fargo hired a new employee. VR conference went really well. Doing voter training with the mock voting booths. Contact Nick if interested in a training with your school.

Michael Netzloff, ND CTE: Doing team visits and has done civil rights visits.

Kerrie Oster, Minot Public Schools: Minot transitioned to the new high school (Minot North), and the students and staff have all adjusted to the two high schools. Have coordinated transition assessments by grade level for the unit/district. Students are attending job sites and volunteering at places such as hotels, senior center, food bank, retail, grocery stores and more.

Rachel Tabler, NDDPI: Works as the 504 coordinator and TSI/CSI schools, which are the state's lowest performing schools.

Laurie Skadsem, Formerly of Anne Carlson Center with Annie's House: Retired from Anne Carlson but is still involved with Annie's House. Emily from Annie's House is the one to contact about a free day at Annie's House, which is the ski lodge and adaptive winter park in Bottineau

for people of all ages. Ski lessons are offered, there is adaptive equipment for skiing and tubing. During summer months there is hiking and fishing. Lodge built in honor of Anne Nelson from Stanley who died in 9/11 attacks. Emily: 263-4556

Linda Elers, ND School for the Deaf: November 9th is National Microtia and Atresia Awareness Day. Microtia & Atresia is a malformed ear. They are doing an event and bringing in speakers to speak about growing up with it.

Katie Macnamara, Federation of Families: First CoP meeting

Suicide Prevention in ND –Melissa Markegard, ND Behavioral Health: Melissa provided information on statistics, community and society factors, risk factors, prevention, 8 Dimensions of Overall wellness, and much more. There are many free resources for professionals and families. The links and slides will be shared out to team members.

NDDPI Updates from Jenifer Urdike: Jenifer briefly went over Ind 13 and 14 preliminary data, and discussed state initiatives surrounding youth, including youth as policy makers and getting youth more involved. She provided new information the Transition Summer Institute occurring June 20-21 in Minot for youth (14-21), parents, and professionals.

Member Discussion: Some discussion surrounding transportation in rural communities, how we disseminate information from State and District level down to the “boots on the ground (aka professionals working with those with disabilities).” There seems to be a disconnect. One stated there seems to be a lack of mental health support in some areas. Behavioral health has many resources available on their website. Behavioral Health has coordinators in each school. Central Regional Education Association-has resources for parents, educators youth etc.<https://b-hero.org/>B-HERO was created to support Behavioral Health Resource Coordinators (BHRCs) in all public, private, and tribal schools throughout North Dakota. The B-HERO Team is composed of educators and advocates passionate about behavioral health in schools, and informed by a multitude of statewide organizations and entities that share our mission and vision. The group brainstormed ideas for future CoP meetings including information on trauma (different kinds of trauma), ideas about moving forward from trauma, chronic absenteeism (comparing ND chronic absenteeism with other states, and year to year), and hearing from youth.

Parents Lead-Sara Kapp, ND Behavioral Health: Sara provided information on Parents Lead, including many free resources for ongoing conversations, monitoring, support and engagement ideas for parents and professionals. Slides will be shared to the group.

Virtual Web-Based Experience-Lisa Metzger, CareerViewXR Be More Colorful: Lisa presented on web-based virtual experiences on RuReadyND and provided instruction on the virtual reality goggles. Members in person were able to try on the virtual goggles if desired. Discussion continued about getting virtual reality goggles to special education units, and whether other state agencies could obtain access to the virtual experiences for their youth with school accounts, rather than having to go through the school login. Lisa Metzger will investigate that and get back to the team. Slide deck will be provided to the team members.

Regional Community of Practice Updates:

Region I: Northwest Region (Williston): Jackie Tesky is the lead. No report

Region II: Northcentral Region (Minot): Sierra Scherr from Independence Inc is the lead. Update provided by Kerrie Oster. Region II is putting on an annual EmpowerUSymposium, an independent living fair in collaboration with Minot State and Independence Inc. They are working on sessions surrounding anxiety and stress. There will be three sessions.

Region III: Devils Lake area. Looking for a lead. No report.

Region IV: Northeast Region (Grand Forks): Jessica Pankow is the lead. Continue meeting 3 times a year. Career Impact Academy met with their group. Would like to discuss with other rural schools on what barriers they are experiencing, especially related to transportation.

Region V: Southeast Region (Fargo): Jen Smart is the lead. The transition guide was not updated. Trying to get better participation.

Region VI: (Jamestown). Heidi Budeau is the lead.

Region VII: Southcentral (Bismarck): Tom and Heather are co leads? Quarterly meetings are occurring.

Region VIII: Southwest Region (Dickinson). Looking for a lead.

Next Meeting: The next meetings will be December 18th and March 19th in the Heritage Center, Room B, from 9-3.