

# *Transition CoP Advisory Council*

## Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2023

**Welcome and review of ND CoP Mission:** Lea welcomed everyone to the meeting. This is the second time the meeting was held as a hybrid meeting. Five people were in attendance, with a majority of team members joining virtually. The Mission Statement was 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.

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

**Brianne Skachenko, ND DHHS, DD Division:** Did not have anything to share. Brianne is sitting in for Wendy Dannenfelzer for today's meeting.

**Linda Ehlers, ND School for the Deaf Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** Will be working with Jodi Sentinel from Minot Public for Deaf and Hard of Hearing. They recently held a Pumpkin Patch family get together.

**Vicki Peterson, Family Voices of ND:** Vicki is attending the meeting in Donene Feist's place. Recently held Transition Café Training, which was created through a grant from Special Health Care Services. Family Voices will be offering more training. Currently they have trained 120 people. They have also provided training related to health transitions into adulthood and Care Giver Café Training. Family Voices will be holding extended learning calls this year. The first one will be November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the topic will be guardianship. They have concerns about employing people with ID in rural areas.

**Collette Fleck, Standing Rock Community School:** One student is participating and doing well in the ASTEP program. They are currently completing BIE surveys, placing students in employment settings, completing W-9s, and working on getting wallet cards for students with autism and ID. They continue to host the Warrior Radio Show twice a month. Students are working on interview skills, completing the driver's education course, a printing business, budgeting, learning about cyber security, and learning self-advocacy. They recently visited Papa's Pumpkin Patch, College Application Day, and a presentation by Job Service. They will hold their Community Fair next week. Students have also participated in Literacy Day, job shadowing experiences, the Annual Youth Wellness activities, and Scrubs Day. They heard a presentation called Everything You Wanted to Know about an Indian but Were Afraid to Ask.

**Torie Post, Souris Valley Special Education:** New coordinator who will listen and learn today.

**Judy Garber, Social Worker from Peach Garden and Northern Plains Special Education Unit:** Their social group has grown from six students to currently over 50 with five different schools being involved. The goal is to work on disability-related skills, which currently includes working on communication skills and engaging students to stay in school to graduate. The districts are struggling with students not qualifying for DD services who need help and are unsure how to assist. There has been a lot of turnover and students graduating from their program.

**Beth Ziman, Oliver Mercer SEU:** Working on grant funding opportunities for their transition students, which includes building a student-led business where they create experiences within the school setting for students who are not able to go into the community.

**Eliason Bullock, Youth Correctional Center:** Trying to help students determine what they want to do after they exit school. They have been working on resume writing and job applications. They have seen some students graduate and some students get their GED.

**Heather Kapella, ND Dept. of Health, Special Health Services:** Will be presenting later and will share updates during that time.

**Jordan Lunde, Lake Region Special Education Unit:** Sitting in for Rhandi Knutson. They have been implementing the Resource Room Curriculum for Job Training provided during resource room time for 15 minutes a day so students can work on transition skills.

**Ruth Lacher, ND Job Service:** Funds are available for their Youth Program.

**Mistie Bouilly, Pathfinders of ND:** Currently shifting roles and creating a youth group where youth can use their voices to create webinars and training for others. The Youth will present at the Pathfinders Conference on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Minot.

**Karla Magnusson, Wilmac Special Education Unit:** Continue to use their PAESE Labs and have started using Project Discovery Labs in junior high. They have started working on transition with students in early grades. They started the Sunshine Cart, where students offer items to help bring happiness into someone else's day.

**Nicholas Murphy, Protection and Advocacy:** They developed a list of priorities for this next year. They include 1) Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation, 2) Community Inclusion, and 3) Criminal Justice-incorporating individual justice plans with students. Anyone wanting more information should contact regional advocacy offices. Bradley Peterson has been hired as the new Legal Director, and Micah Olson has been hired as an attorney with the employment team. P&A is no longer on call over the weekends. People who need help are encouraged to call the main line and leave a message unless there is an emergency. In that case, they should call 9-1-1.

**Michael Netzloff, ND Career and Technical Education Special Populations:** They have been busy with vision visits and high school and college program evaluations. They have also been looking for educational equity and civil rights issues related to ADA compliance.

**Jolyn Webster, ND Center for Persons with Disabilities and IMPCTT:** ASTEP in Minot hired a recent graduate from the program to help incoming students. ASTEP currently has 15 students, Fargo's TAPP has four students, Bottineau's ASPIRE has two students, and Valley City's Pathway has two students. NDCPD has been providing college readiness training to high school teachers. They will begin releasing a quarterly newsletter. On February 29, Kate Weir will do a presentation about Think College.

**Kerrie Oster, Minot Public Schools:** They have been busy with teacher training and getting ready for when the new high school opens. There is currently a campus for ninth and tenth graders and another for eleventh and twelfth graders. The new campus will house grades nine through twelve, so they have been preparing for the change. They opened the Minot area Workforce Academy, where students can take additional training (CDL, working in HeadStart, etc.). They are exploring how to give credit for employment opportunities. In their 18-21 year program, they continue having students involved in community, work, life skills, and training opportunities. They are building bracelets and keychains and selling them on campus. They use the money to help Minot State.

**Jessica Pankow, Upper Valley Special Education Unit:** Continue to house the Adult Transition Program in Grafton. They have had presentations about supported decision-making, self-advocacy, and guardianship laws. They run a coffee shop and have recently added ice cream to the menu due to a donation of an ice cream machine. They have one student in the TAPP program in Fargo.

**Brittany Hanson, Dakota Center for Independent Living:** Have hired many new staff and had many retirees. They offer transition services to people between the ages of fourteen and 24. They offer driver permit preparation, adult-living training, and transportation assistance. They are currently determining how to collect data in rural areas to expand and enhance the rural programs.

**Roxane Romanick, Parent and Designer Genes:** The 20th Walk for Down Syndrome was recently held. They have had members speak about the Peer-to-Peer program and Inclusion in post-secondary programs. They are helping families understand the guardianship funds passed into law to help those interested in establishing guardianship.

**Lauri Skadsem, Anne Carlsen Center:** They hired a new operations manager and have been working on Community Based Services. They started a new service, Goodies for Do-Gooders where cupcakes and other goodies are delivered to someone caught doing good. They held the annual Stars for Hope and are gearing up for their Community Halloween Party on October 27. Annie's House is taking reservations. The new Anne Carlsen building will hopefully be opening this spring.

**Kayla Stasny, ND Behavioral Health:** The Behavioral Health Conference will be held in Bismarck next week and will be offered both in person and virtually. Cognito has gone away, but they have created staff modules. They were awarded the pediatric mental health access grant to improve mental capabilities in mental health workers and expand into schools, emergency rooms, and law enforcement. Community Connect works with people 18 and older who have mental health or substance use disorders, and they have seen an increase in the number of

people they serve between the ages of 18 and 21. 1915i State Plan has added an amendment that states when people don't qualify for DD services; they can still qualify for Medicaid.

**Rachel Tabler, NDDPI, Office of Educational Improvement and Support:** Continues working with TSI and CSI schools and making connections with special education. She is the 504 coordinator and has made updates to 504 information on the NDDPI website.

**Rikki Trageton, Community Living Services:** Working with the Pre-Ets contract in Fargo and West Fargo Public Schools. They are beginning to see an increase in the number of students they serve with work experience. Current numbers are comparable to what they were before Covid. They helped with the development of the TAPP program. They are seeing staff shortages and thinking creatively of how to fill positions.

**Melissa Frederick, Wilmac Special Education:** New to Wilmac and has no more updates than what Karla shared earlier.

**Katelyn Vilmo, Freedom Resource Center:** They will host a young adult gathering at Caribou Coffee in Fargo for students between 16 and 25. They will be talking about budgeting. There will be other gatherings, including October 27 in Valley City at the Vault and October 30 in Jamestown, where they will host a Halloween party.

**Mindi Bessler, NDSCS:** Serves as a member of the ND Disability Service Council, where they discuss issues and concerns at the post-secondary level. Is involved with the Regional CoP in Fargo.

**Lea Kugel and Morgan Edmunson, NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services:** Updates will be shared later during the NDDPI update section.

**NDDPI Updates:** Lea shared more information about graduation, dropout, and post-school outcomes and how they impact different ethnic and disability groups. She also shared this year's OSEP levels of determination of Needs Assistance.

**Special Health Services Presentation by Heather Kapella:** Shared information on the Coordinated Services Program, Financial Coverage Program, Newborn Screening and Follow-up Program and the Children with Special Health Care Needs System Enhancement Program.

**Member Discussion:** Kayla talked about the ND Department of Human Services Day Treatment Grants for wrap-around services, workforce issues, and utilization of programs. Members feel it is important to continue discussion around how to serve students, parent engagement and community wraparound services.

**Launch My Life by Susie Mack and Amy Armstrong:** NDCPD has taken the lead role in updating and housing the website, which will be housed on the ND University System Service. NDCPD can make any edits. Please review the website and provide any feedback about resources that may be lacking, more things that may be needed, and other things that could be updated. Send ideas to [NDCPD@minotstateu.edu](mailto:NDCPD@minotstateu.edu)

**ND Continuum of Care by Mark Heinert:** Shared information about the Continuum of Care of the Youth Homeless Demonstration Projects, including Permanent Supportive House, System Navigation (Support Services) Diversion & Rapid Rehousing, and the ND Housing Hub.

**Regional Community of Practice Updates:**

**Region I:** Have not been meeting. Need to reboot.

**Region II:** Meeting monthly. The Independent Living Fair will be held on November 1 in Minot, with four different breakout sessions.

**Region III:** No update

**Region IV:** Hold quarterly meetings. At the most recent meeting, they looked at things happening and discussed how to get information to stakeholders.

**Region V:** No update

**Region VI:** Not sure if they are meeting, but Laurie will reach out to find out.

**Region VII:** Up and running, VR hosted the last one, the next meeting will be on December 6 at ND Assistive.

**Region VIII:** No update

**Next Meeting:** January, 17, 2024 from 9:00-3:00 in the Pioneer Room at the Capitol or virtually through Teams.