

Transition CoP Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2024

Welcome and review of ND CoP Mission: Jen welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Mission Statement and schedule for the day 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.

Membership Updates and Sharing:

In Person:

Jenifer Updike, NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services:

DPI has a grant for trauma informed schools. Reach out to Robin Lang at DPI for more information: roclang@nd.gov. Summer Summit coming up-Navigating Transition. Save the date is coming out. June 13 afternoon-Sat June 14 full day. Age 14-26 youth and parents and professionals. Cost is TBD. Possible stipend. The location is Minot State University. New Federal guidance on FBA's, which aligns with our State guidance. Looking for a small team of volunteers to design a map for our Regional CoPs that incorporate districts and units. Jessica Pankow, Jeff Anderson, and Colette Fleck volunteered to assist. Jodi and Jessica have a map we can use as a template.

Morgan Edmunson, NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services: Supporting students with Brain Injuries: Resources from ND Brain Injury Network [North Dakota Brain Injury Network](#) Contact Carly for more information carly.endres@und.edu

Barb Burghart, ND VR: working on Pre-ETS contract updates

Eliason Bullock, Youth Correctional Center: 3 new students coming, lots of successes. Students taking ed. seriously and taking ownership of learning-cooperating with peers

Colette Fleck, Standing Rock Community Schools: Community Fair. Cont. work placement for students. Parent surveys 100% return. Students passing driving tests. Pathfinders taught Self-Advocacy and IEP training. Working on ACT registrations. Halloween and Christmas activities. Attended Prophecy of Grandfather. Warrior Radio Show continues. Youth wellness day. Game and Fish Buffalo naming ceremony. Attended Arts and Crafts show in Bismarck. Event for homeless youth. Army Career Day. Suicide Prevention Training. Touring multiple colleges. Shared video of the Media Project [Standing Rock Community Schools - Media Project](#) and a literacy project at Standing Rock [Prairie Public Literacy and Media Day at Standing Rock Community Schools helps promote reading](#)

Lea Kugel, no updates

Jackie Teskey, Wilmac Special Education Unit: Continue to work on starting a transition committee. Working with staff and advocates in the best interest of students. Positive movement is the local advocates are coming to meet staff to improve communication and decrease anxiety when involved.

Pankow, Upper Valley Special Education Unit: We have been working with our local dispatch to practice 911 calls with our Adult Transition aged students. Working with our local residential facilities, we have discovered that North Dakota is doing a great job in preparing students compared to other states.

Katie Mcnamara, Federation of Families: no update

Rikki Trageton, Community Living Services: The biggest challenge is finding staff

Sarah Duven, Anne Carlson: No updates

Online: Updates provided via email

Jeff Anderson, Cass County ARC: Busy spreading the word about some new initiatives. We are offering scholarships for students pursuing a degree in special education. All who reside in Region 5 (even if you attend an out-of-state college) are eligible to apply. Awards range from \$500 to \$2000. We are offering scholarships for any person with an intellectual or developmental disability who is pursuing post-secondary education. The awards are \$500. We are working on a grant program intended to help teachers with classroom costs. Awards up to \$500 will be considered. Roll-out will be spring 2025. We have expanded our Retail Training Program to offer year-round training in place of summer only. We are offering Forklift Certification and Training for students. We have expanded our programming into school classrooms, particularly those classes that serve students with multiple impairments.

Tracey Olson, NDCDP ASTEP and IMPCCT Projects: TPSIDS in the state: MSU, DCB, VCSU, NDSU. All programs are looking for students to start fall 2025. Please reach out to programs or Tracey with questions. Working with a great group of agencies on the Summer Summit: Navigating Transition June 13-14 at MSU. Working to apply for the next round of grant funding and some of our planning will be about how to support students and educators to prepare for the college transition. IMPCCT is the state consortium for post-secondary programs in ND. We are also involved in a Regional Alliance. Working with MN, ND, SD, and WY on supporting post-secondary programs in our region and then learning from other regional alliances across the country. Minot has started an EMPOWER Group for youth ages 16-26. This group is currently support by Independence Inc. and the ASTEP program. Identified leadership group and planning social events for students with and without disabilities. It is new-looking forward to watching it grow.

Jordan Lunde-Lake Region Special Education Unit: We are transitioning most of our schools in the unit to virtual VR services. We have had 4 students recently participate in intakes virtually and they have gone really well. The IEP case managers have been impressed with how smoothly they went. At DLHS, we are toying with the idea of implementing a big sister/big brother mentoring program. Many students are struggling with social skills, and due to this, their non-disabled peers are getting frustrated and losing patience with them. This would help for a couple of reasons: 1) The gen ed students would gain a better understanding of students with disabilities. 2) The special ed students would receive real-life social skills practice. We are doing indicator 13 desk monitoring. Some things we are struggling with are chronic absenteeism and failing grades

Kiara Crosby, Northern Plains Special Education Unit: Transition Group just had their annual Christmas party. Nursing students from Minot State are leading lessons with our teens as well as Independence Inc. Success for our group includes by-in from admin, and students are able to obtain credit for participating... Additionally, we hold the time together during the day- and so transportation and time is all managed by the school districts (staff and transportation). Students are motivated to attend- and enjoy building friendships.

Jodi Webb, Pathfinder: PSND will be piloting the CHASE program starting January 2025. This program is for youth and young adults with and without disabilities, dealing with the justice system. Information on the program will be attached to the meeting minutes. PSND Upcoming trainings; <https://pathfinder->

[nd.org/calendar.php](https://www.nd.gov/calendar.php) SAVE THE DATE: April 26th in Minot - Pathway to Partnerships Conference - more information to come

Kaycee Johnson, ND DHHS, DD Division: No updates

Nick Murphy, Protection and Advocacy, Grand Forks: We have had two advocates in the Fargo area resign their positions but will be hiring for both the regional advocate and Olmstead Commission spots left vacant by this. Other than that, we continue to advocate and provide outreach, and are looking forward to the upcoming legislative session.

Kendra, Designer Genes: . Kendra is transitioning into the role of executive director since Roxane's retirement. We are working on expanding programs/ services for this transition age by conducting a membership survey for our families to fill out. Please see the link: <https://forms.gle/go7h9WQK7nfUGFo19> The transition age continues to be an area of interest for needing support and services with some of our members. Was recently made aware of a policy change impacting rules for respite and in-home support, which states that services cannot be provided in licensed building or to a small group of participants. Wondering if anyone else is working through these challenges?

*Due to a time constraint, it was requested online participants email updates to Jenifer & Barb. All updates received by 12/19/2024 have been added to the minutes.

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.

Region III: Devils Lake area.

Region IV: Northeast Region (Grand Forks): Jessica Pankow is the lead.

Region V: Southeast Region (Fargo): Jen Smart is the lead.

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

Region VII: Southcentral (Bismarck): Tom and Heather are co leads?

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

Presenters:

Trauma Training- -ND Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Jessica Harvey

Assistive Technology Assessment – Lacey Long, Courtney Ness

Moving from Trauma Aware to Trauma Informed: Practices in the Classroom-Dr. Patricia Arter, Kathleen Arbon LCSW-C, CCTP, and Dr. Sherry Hoyle:

Unified Champion Schools and Special Olympics ND-Anna Roaldson

Next Meeting:

The next meetings will be March 19th, 2025 in the Heritage Center, Room A&B