

Secondary Transition CoP Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2025

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 Urdike, NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services: will be sharing DPI updates later. Shared on (HB 1013 – budget bill, 1049 – speech language path, 1105 – allowing school districts time limits virtual, 1164 – language change with some IEP labels, 1200 – substitution for alternative class) - [North Dakota Legislative Branch Login](#)

Morgan Edmunson, NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services: quick update

Lea Kugel NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services: 1547, 2112 – sounds like it will pass (hopefully will be open for eligible and noneligible students – is it appropriate to mix these kids) - must report back to legislation every 6 months and DHHS will have to create a long-term plan by next legislative session - no exceptions, 2213 (science of math bill), 2029 – create an office of guardianship – three different offices currently work with guardianship (put under DHHS – but don't have people to investigate), SPDG update, federal updates, dispute (more requests for mediation)

Rachel Tabler, NDDPI: update on three bills I am following (1496, 2096, 2113)

Sarah Duven, Anne Carlson: meeting first year of transition model, partnering with camber of commerce (swag bags) - very successful, Gateway to Science is coming, Prom is coming up students are very excited (do every two years), focusing on community out reach – last month was paramedics – students get the opportunity to exposure and learn more about them and what they do

Kerrie Oster, Minot Public Schools: working on creative options for credits for kids, do several virtual options for student (odesy, enginuity), 1 teacher has been going some transportation training, group transition activities, interm director – looking for new for next year

Jeff Anderson, Cass County ARC: Arc is busy expanding employment opportunities for transition age students. Adding lots of Rep Payee clients, as the community need far exceeds supply. Community clothing vouchers are in high demand. So far in 2025 the Arc has donated \$4000 of thrift store priced clothing, winter coats hats gloves and boots, blankets, shoes, and housewares to the F5 project, Downtown Engagement Center, area shelters, and Fraser.

Eliason Bullock, Youth Correctional Center: got an influx of students in (YCC), lots of graduations, lots of kids passing GED test, getting lots of credits added for students that are coming in with minimal credits, kids are very motivated, in last 2-3 weeks we have had 3 students pass GED, if students come in with enough credits we are starting to be able to get them to see there are options for them to see there future – the GED bill has had a huge impact in a positive way on our students

Colette Fleck, Standing Rock Community Schools: students are continuing with testing, brought students to do radio show (Warrior Radio Show), looked at United Tribes, 1 student completed ASTEP, driver's and budget training, peer mentoring and team building activities, Job Corp Presentations, Tour at Lynnes Welding and united Tribes College – CTE Program, ASVAB Testing, American Foundation of Suicide Prevention Training for all students 6-12, Job shadowing at hair academy, freshman career days at Bismarck Career Academy)graphic design, IT, Hughes Education Center – Health Science – Trauma and Sports Medicine and ND Gateway to Science), Motivational Speakers (Chance Rush, Hank Richardson – Warrior Radio completed interviews with both), 3 students attended Disability Awareness Day at the ND State Capitol, Warrior Radio Show presented at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, Job Services presentations for grades 11-12, students and parents attended parent teacher conferences, working with students on procedural safeguards and transfer of rights, field trip to ND Heritage Center, 12 students attended art class at Theo Art School, Warrior Radio broadcast Live from KLND and produced Promos for KLND, seniors are working on accomplishing activities on their individual timelines, Sitting Bull College provided presentations for students in grades 11-12, tree sapling with students at Sioux County Extension Center in Fort Yates, Warrior Radio completed Job shadowing at iHeart Radio, warrior radio show members and peer mentors attended Standing Rock Tribe Strategic Planning through Consortiums – the Next Generation, Parent Training - working with your teenager, we have many exciting events planned until the end-of-the-year, Standing Rock Community School Career Fair, Pathfinders Meeting (Pathways to Success) with students/parents/guardians, job shadowing at Missouri Valley Vet Clinics, JOhn Lopez Studio-Lemmon SD, ACT Testing, Sitting Bull College Career Fair, KLND Radio Station-Group 2-Promos, McKinney Vento Parent Training-Pathfinders, United Tribes Technical College Career Festival, Burdick Job Corp Tour – Minot ND, Walk for Wellness, iMagicon Convention, NDVR/ND Job Service Presentations in Bismarck for Seniors and Interview Clothes, Warrior Radio Show Finale, Senior PowerPoint and Summary of Performance Meetings, Field trips, May 18 Graduation

Jackie Teskey, Karla Magnuson, Megan Stieg, Wilmac Special Education Unit: partnered with Parent Guidance – added in parent coaching online (over 280 visits to the site), ParentGuidance.org - ideas on how to deal with behavior, started OSS Academy – students that have been expelled can not go to an alternative location to continue to work on class work, creative with courses, getting new Superintendent

Jessica Pankow, Upper Valley Special Education Unit: working on jobs for students- trying to be more creative (coffee and ice cream shop), snack bags for testing

Rikki Trageton, Community Living Services: provide work experiences for secondary transition age students, almost back to pre pandemic numbers – everyone is short staffed, so everyone is trying some creative planning and problem solving, behavioral health issues is the hardest to try to find job opportunities

Tammy Turnis, ND Assistive: been very busy, received a grant from BSC (helps get students connected with jobs around ND), administer a loan program (70 loans out right now over 1 million dollars – 4 years ago only had 2 loans), sit on Bismarck/Mandan committee for secondary transition students will award 5 scholarships (May 9)

Nick Murphy, Protection and Advocacy, Grand Forks: fully staffed, been very busy with legislative session, email Veronic if want a list of what P&A is following, launch my life (website) fantastic - check it out

Mathew McCleary Federations of Families: lots of legislative work, advocating for children, impatient hospitalization does not come at the cost of other services (community-based services), placing students into LSDC (not an appropriate placement) instead of existing structures (Ruth Meyers) - concerned about this occurring (2112), needs to be a carveout for children psychiatric medication – students should not have to fail on generic before they can get the medication that they need, parent groups – so parents can speak to others across the state and learn about possible options that may apply to their student – learn how to advocate your their child, not only connecting students to supports but also assists the other others inside the family

Kiara Crosby, Northern Plains Special Education Unit: Jodi Webb, Pathfinder: over 40 students in the transition group, 1 teacher is doing a sunshine cart (group of more reserved students) pass out drink or snack to teachers, talking about some financial options for student and services that are out there as student gets older

Online:

Midge Thompson – sweat treat program (Grand Forks)

Ruth Lacher, Job Service: Jen Smart, DD program manager out of Fargo: JSND funds available for WIOA Youth Program, all referrals are welcome to your local Workforce Centers

Julie Horntvedt, NDSDCDD: (DD Council) - 1012 DHHS budget bill, 1014 expenses with protection and advocacy, 1106 – Department of Transportation grants, 2305 – family paid pilot program, hosting the Power Up Your Voice Conference in Fargo (Monday), Sunday 2:30-4:30 AT expo with protection and advocacy,

Casey Johnson, ND DHHS, DD Division: lots going on with legislation, just got waiver approved, put together a camp for students 12-21 (grant for 5 providers – 3 participated (Pride, Poppies, and GF)– worked on life skills – could utilize for many things (zoos, etc)) - have money left over to do this again

this summer, biannual Cross Roads Conference – looking for recommendations for speakers and session ideas

Alicia Halle, VR: added an additional personnel member getting a lot more individuals reaching out for services– not getting more funding this is a struggle to meet needs, with larger case loads looking at offering more remote services, getting staffing is a struggle – we do not have all of the credentialing here in ND – we have to recruit from out of state

Jennifer Smart: worked on secondary transition manual – just updated and handed out last week, hope to get it online, concerns about not using the word Secondary, but it can be corrected before printing more, DD in the heart of transitioning students from day program and post high school

Kendra Vander Wal – Designer Genes: It is Kendra with Designer Genes. Like many of you, we have been keeping an eye out for legislative updates at the state and federal level. Watching bills associated with transportation, education/ special education, human services, guardianship, medical/ dental studies, and paid family caregiver.

We have been working with Family Voices and ND council of Developmental Disabilities on sharing information about Medicaid and opened up two collaborative sessions to provide information about Medicaid to families.

We are looking forward to the many conferences coming up and hope to see you at the Power Up Conference in a few days.

Lastly, we have two opportunities coming up which include a Mock Interview opportunity on May 5th and the iCan Bike camp this summer. Please reach out if you want any information.

Outside of that World Down Syndrome Day is Friday, so get ready to rock your socks with us.

Kayla Stastney, DHHS: We also have a webpage where you can order any of our materials, including 988, Mental Health Directory, Parents Lead, and more. One of my favorites is the 988 magnets. <https://behavioralhealth.x-shops.com/>. At BHD, we have one more session of "What Happens When I Call 988?" on March 25th. It's a nice overview to the First Link side of 988 and what can be expected when someone outreaches 988. You can register on First Link's webpage here: <https://myfirstlink.org/trainings/>.

Tori Post, SVSS: SVSS has no major updates. Staffing shortages and virtual sped teachers make placing students in vocational settings difficult. Rural teachers are creating vocational opportunities in their buildings.

Heather Kapella: A few bills following during Legislation session. **SB2196** for administration of epinephrine in schools to change century code to include new nasal mist, Neffy. **HB1363** relating to cardiac emergency response plans for public and nonpublic schools and athletic events. Working on SFN 905s for Medicaid reimbursement in schools for nursing services. Maternal, Child Health 5 year needs assessment has been completed and we will focus on Medical Home to include Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health starting July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030. RFPs to come out soon. The other priority I work on is Adolescent Health and our focus will be on Mental Health.

Jordan Lunde: LRSE has no major updates. Our schools are mostly just struggling with chronic absenteeism and mental health issues in the high school setting. Just like everyone else in the state, I'm sure.

Standing Rock Student Presentation:

- 7 students came to the Heritage Center and hosted the radio show for us to see. Students ranged from seniors to freshmen.
- Standing Rock local KLND had 3 representatives join and talk about community engagement, start up, and impact.
- Superintendent Baesler was able to attend the event
- Shared pop culture, school lunch and calendar, nutritional facts, traditional foods around the holiday, fashion trends, quotes for the day, health, weather, jokes
- Students did a wonderful job running the show, asked lots of great questions and supported each other throughout the show
- If anyone is interested in starting up a radio station with their students, feel free to reach out to Colette.

Membership Discussion: Secondary Transition issues and concerns

Concerns about students demonstrating mental health/behavioral issues at school being recommended for Pre-ETS and off-campus work when that is not the most appropriate setting for them at the time. Concerns about VR needing transition counselors to meet virtually due to funding issues and having high volume of referrals and low staffing. Using the word “secondary” in front of transition is necessary now when referring to secondary transition work. The Secondary Transition Summit is still a go, but the logo must be updated. NTACTION C has been abolished by OSEP. Concerns of what will happen with the resources and research done by NTACTION.

NDDPI Updates:

- Shared indicator updates and whether or not we met individual targets
- Jen shared Michelle's data – asked if they had questions that she was not able to answer to reach out to Michelle
- Talked about GRAD 701 and all that it encompasses – May 15 another parent meeting
- Working on updating a map that outline SPED units and Regional CoPs
- New OSEP guidance with Secondary Transition
- NTACTION C Resources will be no longer after September 30
- Getting a new logo for Secondary Transition
- NDDPI as a whole is also looking at revamping their logo

ASTEP Program-Jessica Reiswig

- ISPE – Inclusive Postsecondary Education – allows students to attend college alongside peers – long term goal is for students to graduate and competitively apply for employment
 - Began in 1998
 - College is within reach for students with intellectual or developmental disability
 - They are designed for students that may not be otherwise accepted to college

- Most participate in an interview process and letters of recommendation – admission process
- This is not a 24/7 program – there is downtime that the student is on their own
- Think Higher Think College – campaign for all to think about college
- ASTEP – inclusive program (Minot State University) - allows students with disabilities to go to college
 - 96% of students who graduate from ASTEP are employed
 - 60% of students who graduate from ASTEP live independently
 - 4 core domains
 - Academics – receive academic supports and accommodations
 - Employment – work-based learning opportunities, also helps with transition from college to the workforce
 - Independent living – develop skills to live as independently as possible – identify unique skills that each student needs
 - Social Skills – integrate students into campus and community events – offering supports as needed
 - Additional areas – SAFE Training, self – determination and self- advocacy, personal training partnership with kinesiology department
 - Peer mentors – fellow students that provide support to ASTEP students in a supportive peer to peer environment
 - Three different types of mentors (paid, practicum, volunteers)
 - Fading supports – goal is to gradual reduce supports
- Matt McCleary made a supportive comment about giving some students second chances. Kirstin Dvorak made comments about her son who graduated with a degree while participating in this program.
- Slides from the presentation will be shared with the group.

Regional Community of Practice Updates:

Region I: Northwest Region (Williston): Jackie Tesky – no formal CoP- do have some new staff – hoping to start one this year

Region II: Northcentral Region (Minot): Kerrie Oster gave update, as Sierra was not able to attend- just met 2 weeks again, the independent living fair (rescheduled to May – will let Jen know date)

Region III: (Devils Lake) - need a lead

Region IV: Northeast Region (Grand Forks): Jessica Pankow – very excited for the Children's Museum to be built, Work Force Innovation Center

Region VI: (Jamestown). Heidi Budeau. No update

Region VII: Southcentral (Bismarck): Tom and Heather –Update provided by Colette: did meet and individual schools shared out

Region VIII: Southwest Region (Dickinson). - need a lead

Next Meetings: The next meetings will be October 15, 2025, January 21, 2026, and April 15, 2026, in the Pioneer Room