

Transition CoP Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2022

Attending: Michelle Woodcock, Morgan Edmundson, Lea Kugel, Barb Burghart, Rikki Trageton, Wendy Dannenfelzer, Melanie Kraker, Ben Zimmer, Lucy Glesser, Melissa Frederick, Karla Magnuson, Michael Netzloff, Jackie Teskey, Collette Fleck, Tracy Olson, Anne Bette-Guldborg, Laurie Skadsem, Judy Garber, Linda Ehlers, Kerrie Oster, Amanda Mattson, Jessica Pankow, Roxanne Rominick, Kiara Crosby, Ruth Lacher

Welcome: Lea welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time, and updated the CoP on the NDDPI Office of Specially Designed Services name change.

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 had the Senior Et Community Employment, Program SCSEP for ages 55+, which the grant pays wages. Made all their goals this year. Teacher Intern will be VR intern and offered summer 2023

Linda Ehlers - ND Center for the Deaf hired a new Superintendent Donna Sorensen. Serve adult and youth – Linda works more with the school-age outreach. September 18th – 24th is Deaf Awareness week and September is Deaf Awareness month.

Jessica Pankow –Upper Valley Special Education Unit - Going through a staff shortage, as they have 5 online teachers and 2 online Speech Language Pathologists. They started their Adult Transition Program (ATP) with 9 students currently enrolled.

Roxanne Rominick - Parent Rep. and Designer Genes - Her daughter, Liz, has graduated from ASTEP and is employed with BECEP - Walk for Down Syndrome is on September 24th at the capitol. Promotes acceptance and inclusion. Parent Leadership Institute 2nd weekend in October in Edgley-led by Roxanne and Donene. Bis man Strengths Builders is their Facebook site.

Designer Genes and the ARC hired Renee Wetzeon.

Michael Netzloff – ND Department of Career and Technical Education - wrapped up CTE conference, doing statewide civil rights evaluations with schools by going through policies, nondiscrimination, and ADA compliance.

Kiara Crosby- Northern Plains Special Education Unit- new curriculum training for teachers, PAS (practical assessment labs) still running. She has been working with Judy for Transition group (5 schools together) “Navigating Sea of Change”.

Judy Garber- Peace Garden Social Worker - Had a retreat at Lake Metigoshe for 10-14 families. School is dealing with a lot of teacher shortages or new teachers, so trying to balance the chaos.

Laurie Skadsem-Retired after 38 years with Anne Carlson and now volunteers, is a surrogate parent for a student on an IEP. Annie’s House is taking reservations for trail walks, snowshoeing, skiing, and tubing. They will have trails open this fall, 701-263-4556-Rachel is the contact.

Tracey Olson – ASTEP Project Director-ASTEP 16 students this year – DD Council gave funding for student leadership SB 2269-additional funding through DPI. Will be presenting a poster session in Washington D.C. in December with these youth on leadership skills.

Anne Beste Golberg – IMPCCT Consortium Project Director college programs for students with disabilities who want to attend college REACH at Bismarck State College and ASPIRE at Dakota College Bottineau.

Collette Fleck – Standing Rock Community School - October 13th Community Fair run by the students at Fort Yates with a bake sale and dedicating money to Bismarck Cancer Center or St. Jude’s. Monarch Program created by United Tribes Technical College – helped students with drivers ed, dual credit funding, surveying parents right now, Sept 21 KLNE radio show 10 am-11am. On October 27th, Prairie Public Literacy Awareness Day. Planning field trips this this year, such as Magic Can in Minot, Pumpkin Patch, working on Basic Living Skills and visiting with Providers.

Jackie Teskey- Wilmac Special Education Unit – they have a new superintendent, PAS labs running, also working with transition program on more community partnerships, TNT Fitness, and Transition.

Karla Magnuson – Wilmac Special Education Unit a lot of new staff and figuring out mentoring through a coaching model for the new teachers. 7-8 Para to teachers, monthly cohort meetings for Para to teacher with Holly Pedersen. Behavioral Health Unit added to Region 1, partners for real life work experiences.

Melissa Frederick – Souris Valley Special Services - 20 new special education teachers in Souris Valley Unit. Wilton students are using the binders and community YESS program. Transition students also toured Fort Yates for more transition ideas.

Kerrie Oster – Minot Public Schools - More alike than different basketball game was hosted by the Minot High School girls and boys basketball champion teams, which is part of the Renaissance Program. They have their 18-21 job sites up and running.

Amanda Mattson – Bismarck Public Schools-60 new teachers, PAS labs are up and running. 3 out of 4 transition services are connected with VR services.

Ben Zimmer-Vocational Training Center-Create Internships Program. Interns are paid by Job Service Funds, worth with the youth on their soft skills and provide real word expectations for the job. Every 9 out of 10 get hired through a training site.

Melanie Kraker - Vocational Training Center, Day Habilitation Program - with in home program and residential. Have a Peer-to-Peer Program working with DD council and with Advocates Leading Lives, they are meeting monthly.

Wendy Dannenfelzer – DHA DD Division - DD merged with Department of Human and Health Services. dhhs@.gov is the new Health and Human Services internet site. They have been working with getting kids back to school and prepping of the legislative session.

Rikki Trageton – Community Living Services - busy with Pre-ETS contracts and working with students back in school. They too are short staffed. Which the topic of taking care of ourselves and taking care of our staff was a key point during these times.

Michelle Woodcock -NDDPI - taking over the SSIP-had alternate assessment portfolio, ND Educational Hub-platform that all educators-free state-wide training, the bulk of the content coming in October end. Can get your CUE's on the system-they don't have to be distributed by someone. Go to ND educational hub for a login. Tech talk trainings next one is October 16

NDDPI updates:

- SSIP Updates: Data related to graduation rates for students with ED was presented by Michelle Woodcock, along with plans for the 2022-23 school year and SSIP. Shared information about four Evidence-Based Practices that NDDPI will be presenting training on for all schools.
- Choice Ready and Alternate Choice Ready: Lea updated the group on current data related to choice ready for all students, students with disabilities, and students with significant cognitive impairments who complete the ND Alternate Assessment.
- ESSER Funds:
 - Michelle presented information and updates related to the Early Warning Intervention Management System (EWIMS) and the coaching cadre that is currently being trained to work with Grand Forks and West Fargo.
 - Graduation Improvement – Michelle shared information on how West Fargo is planning on using funds to purchase PAES labs. Grand Forks is currently writing their application with their plans. Both districts will review data from EWIMS and may purchase additional intervention materials based on need.
 - Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) Lea shared that a ND Informational Manual is being created by the Progress Center and that a contract will be written with a national person to help with training on what SDI is and what it may look like for different students and different students. She will share the training information with this group as a time and date are selected.
 - Educator Pathway- Lea shared the NDEES website [TEACHING ND](#), where information for the Educator Pathway is housed. Three Universities have agreed to teach the two special education courses and work with schools to offer dual credit to high school students wanting to enter the teaching profession. ESSER funds will be used to cover

the cost for any student who wants to take any of the five courses in the Educator Pathway.

OSEP Guidance Documents:

- New Guidance Helps Schools Support Students with Disabilities and Avoid Discriminatory Use of Discipline:
 - <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/new-guidance-helps-schools-support-students-disabilities-and-avoid-discriminatory-use-discipline>
- New Guidance Helps Schools Support Students with Disabilities and Avoid Discriminatory Use of Discipline:
 - [https://rsa.ed.gov/sites/default/files/subregulatory/A Framework for Community Engagement_0.pdf](https://rsa.ed.gov/sites/default/files/subregulatory/A%20Framework%20for%20Community%20Engagement_0.pdf)

Member Discussion:

Transition Issues and Concerns: Lots of discussion on getting students more ready to leave high school, stronger independent living skills, work experience (more fading),

Training for teachers on how to complete the IEP-DPI can provide overall information, but it really is the district's responsibility. DPI is continuously trying to develop resources around completing the IEP and sharing it with the field.

Supported Decision Making

Mandy Dendy from P&A shared information on Supported Decision Making and Guardianship. More information can be found at: <https://www.ndpanda.org/resources/supported-decision-making>

Mandy also shared the Guide to Independence which is a free document that can be ordered by calling P & A. [A Guide to Independence | Protection Advocacy Project, North Dllakota](#)

Additional NDDPI updates:

- Lea shared that Indicator 13 Transition Monitoring occurred this past June. She shared preliminary data with the field and explained what things are in place to try to increase compliance data before the correction phase takes place.
- Lea reviewed the Indicator 14 Post School Outcomes data that showed what students are doing a year after graduation. Most of the students who completed the survey reported going into the workforce after graduation. More information can be found on the NDDPI website.
- SB2269 The Post-secondary Transition Program: An application has been created and can be found on the NDDPI website. Currently, one application has been submitted and verified to receive funding for offering training to students between the ages of 18-21. The program is ASTEP at Minot State.
- Blazing a Trail 2022: The Conference will take place on November 2 and 3 at the Baymont in Mandan. Lea shared information on the number of people currently registered, the number and names of vendor booths, and the names of people who have submitted applications for breakout sessions. Please share the application sheet with anyone interested in giving a breakout presentation. People can register for the conference on the Eventbrite website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nd-secondary-transition-interagency-conference-tickets-295492274347>

CoP Priorities for this year:

Can we have the next CoP, which will take place in December, in a hybrid format? Lea will work to try to find a location that has good internet to offer both a face-to-face and online option for attendance. Lea will try to get dates for the Transition CoP on the calendar for the entire next year.

Regional Community of Practice Updates:

Region 1: Kara Magnuson shared that they have not been meeting for a long time. The last one was before Covid.

Region 2: Started meeting in the spring and took the summer off; they are having trouble finding a space to meet.

Region 3: No report.

Region 4: Have a meeting on Friday, September 9, 2022. They also had Sarah Kaiser from UND speaker on 504s and IEPs- are meeting quarterly.

Region 5: Took summer off-mini transition conference for students -went well-they meet monthly.

Region 6: Not sure if they are meeting anymore.

Region 7: Have been trying to have a meeting but have to keep rescheduling.

Region 8: No report.

Notes:

- Discussion on how to make the Regional CoPs more robust. Lea mentioned contacting someone to help. Members suggested reaching out to one another and maybe combining some of the regions. Regions will reach out to each other at this time.
- Open slot for the NDYCC member. NDDPI will reach out to find a replacement.
- Contact Leah Hamann from United Tribes Technical College to share information on the Monarch Program.

Next Meeting: Transition Community of Practice will be held on December 21, 2022, from 9:00-3:00. Lea will look for a venue so it can be offered as a hybrid meeting that is both face-to-face meeting and virtual.

Topics for next meeting: Mental Health Concerns in transition-age youth, Sara Kaiser from UND Student support services at the college level.