



Transition Community of Practice Advisory Council

March 19, 2014

Attending: Jerolyn Austin, Becky Backman, Barb Burghart, Barb Cote, Dan Juve, Ron Dahley, Judy Garber, Cheryl Hess, Connie Hovendick, Angie Jones, Kari Kingsolver, Mary Robinson, Gerry Teevens, Erik Anthony, Brianne Skachenko, Amy Armstrong, Kara Lynn Langowski, Kate Milner, Christi Lazette, Andrea Nelson, Shawn Huss, Carrie Odden, Steven Felchle, Lisa Stymeist, Denise Harvey, Laura Mildenberger, Zanthia Price, Dawn Paulson, Karla Sundhagen, Tammie Johnson, and Laurie Skadsem., Pam Smith, Scott Weisman, and Pat Weinberg, and Michelle Baker, Intern, Dept of Health

Welcome and ND Transition CoP Mission – Gerry talked about our membership and several suggestions were made for additional folks to be asked to join. Gerry also reviewed the 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.”* This group started back in the 1990’s as a state Transition Advisory Council and now we are part of a larger National Community of Practice since 2007. ND is one of 11 states of the National CoP.

Pepnet - Pam Smith talked about the grant period for Pepnet – There are 5 members on the ND team. Transition Forum for Deaf and Hard of Hearing is being held on September 26 and 27, 2014 in Fargo.

Teachers Internship – Barb Burghart informed the council about the teacher internship program that will be offered this summer. June 11 – 13 is orientation in Bismarck and the internship work will be done June 16 – 27. Six teachers will be accepted into the program. You can get an application at the VR offices around the state.

Youth Summer Employment Program through VR – Barb Burghart: For students to qualify they have to be a junior or senior or be in the 18-21 year old transition programs. They also need to be a client of VR but do not need to be on an IEP.

ND State DD Council – Cheryl Hess: The DD council has 8 federal areas of emphasis. They are: transportation, recreation, employment, quality assurance, education & early intervention, child care, health care, and housing.

- ❖ Project Search is a program for students with disabilities 18 to 21 years of age, which is designed to provide opportunities for the school, VR, and a business to collaborate for employment training. The students would go to school for a brief time and work on some transition activities and then go to work for the rest of the day. This will be some paid and unpaid jobs for the students. There will be some town hall meetings for anyone who is interested. Bismarck and Fargo will be the sites for the meetings.
- ❖ There is a national disability mentoring day in October 2014. This is a day where the students get the chance to participate in job shadowing. More information on this will be coming.
- ❖ Four opportunities for projects for teens or young adults in the area of self-advocacy. Funds distributed in October 2014.
 - Teen Grants (4 at \$500) - Self-advocacy - leadership
 - Small Innovative Grants (4 at \$2500) - specific to Council Goals,
 - Small Self Advocacy Grants (4 at \$2500) - Self-advocacy;
 - Consumer Leadership Fund (Leadership)
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- ❖ There are some DD dollars available for individuals and their families to attend trainings/conference. There are requirements to present after they have attended.
- ❖ DD grant writing training:
 - Tuesday, April 1, 2014**
 - ❖ **Williston**, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Northwest Human Service Center, 316 2nd Ave. W., 3rd floor, Room 314.
 - Monday, April 7, 2014**
 - ❖ **Jamestown**, 1 to 4:30 p.m., Anne Carlsen Center, 701 3rd Street N.W., Sunroom
 - Tuesday, April 29, 2014**
 - ❖ **Grand Forks**, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Northeast Human Service Center, 151 S. 4th St., 5th floor, Rooms D and E

New Staff - Tammy Johnson reported that someone has been hired for the autism registry – through Department of Health.

DPI: Gerry passed around the Child Count (3-21 years) for Special Education. Gerry explained that the post-school outcomes report can be found on the DPI website. It was announced that October 20, 21 and 22, 2014 is the ND Autism Conference in Bismarck at the Ramada Inn. (old Doublewood)

ND Transition Interagency Conference coming up 2015 – Gerry asked the group for volunteers to assist in planning the conference. They are looking for a date and place along with topics/speakers for the conference. If you are interested in helping with the planning, please contact Gerry.

The ND DPI/Special Education Office is planning a “Secondary Transition Training Event” for September 24, 2014 in Bismarck and September 25, 2014 in Fargo. This event will focus on the federal transition IEP requirements. Each year numerous transition IEPs are reviewed by a state trained Indicator 13 Monitoring Team. Data indicates transition teachers and teams still need training on the requirements and how to include these in the transition planning for secondary students. A national consultant will be hired to assist the state department in providing the training events.

LaunchMyLifeND.com – this is a website for students 16-21 years who have a disability. It will assist them in planning their future all areas of life. The partners who developed this includes:

- NDCPD
- SCDD
- P & A
- ND DPI
- CAP
- DVR

Look at it at www.LaunchMyLifeND.com

Virtual job shadow program is available to purchase through the Dept of Commerce.

- **Regional CoP's committee updates:** *Gerry reminded the members of the ongoing offer from DPI for funds to support projects of any of the Regional CoP's.*
 1. Region I: Trying to get organized again. Membership is an issue for them.
 2. Region II: Have about 12 people that consistently attend. Each of the representatives from organizations present what their programs provide.
 3. Region III: The Career Fair will be May 5, 2015 at Burdick Arena. The fair will focus on 2 years or less post-secondary training. Hoping for 36 + vendors. Employment in Devils Lake has several new opportunities with new businesses arriving.
 4. Region IV: The sub-committee has been working hard on developing a brochure entitled Seamless Transition. This is still in the pilot stage. There has been positive and negative feedback regarding the process. Data will continue to be collected. Career Fair is being developed to be held in Grafton with details forthcoming. Next meeting is on April 25.
 5. Region V: Transition guide is complete and on the DPI website. The group has about 32 members. Fargo held a “Teen Night Out” and had a transition emphasis where they students and parents were able to ask questions. This has been a big success. The parents are also given

transition information. This committee has a cross training seminar each year. These forums are for parents to assist with getting more accurate information out to them. Next month they will establish their new goals for the group.

6. Region VI: Last meeting was in February at Annie's House in Bottineau. A sub-committee has been formed to plan the "hands on" Health, Technology and Trades Career Fair that is coming up on November 13, 2014 in Jamestown at the Civic Center. The focus is on occupations where 2 years or less training is needed. It is open to all high school students in Region VI.
7. Region VII: Continue to meet quarterly and meet at different agency locations and has added an educational component. The meetings are well attended. The group is planning a transition fair for March 2015.
8. Region VIII: No report.

Practice Group (Sub-Committee) Updates –

- **Youth Leadership** – No report.
- **Healthy Transitions** – A survey was sent out and Cheryl gave the results. She passed around a draft of the brochure that deals with the issues as outlined on the survey results. An app was developed at NDCPD and Amy suggested contacting them to see if collaboration would be appropriate. Deadline for completion will be by the June 2014.
- **Employment** – Barb stated that the group will be reorganizing and setting timelines and breaking the projects into doable chunks. The next meeting will be April 24 at 8 AM. Barb will send out information. NDACP will be having their conference in May with much of the focus on customized employment.
- **Guardianship** – Cheryl handed out a draft of a flyer for guardianship. A survey was completed and sent to parents through Pathfinders.

➤ ***If you are interested in participating on any of the sub-committees, please notify Gerry Teevens.***

- **National Secondary Transition Meetings:**

A ND team that will be attending the National CoP meeting and the National Secondary Transition Planning Institute in Charlotte, NC. This is the eight year a ND team will be attending. The team thus far will be Gerry Teevens, Barb Burghart, and Laurie Skadsem. Gerry asked that any members of this group let her know if they are interested in attending.

Transition goals that are established during this national planning institute are based on the transition taxonomy that includes self-led IEP's; interagency collaboration; and aligning of transition practices among agencies. The proposed goals for last year included:.

1. Develop a youth survey to be completed by students to help identify issues around transition from the youth perspective.
2. Increase understanding of guardianship and alternatives to guardianship for IEP teams.

The National CoP provides information for our state to use. They also have monthly topical calls that we are invited to join. If you are interested and are not already getting the emails regarding the calls, please inform Gerry and she will add you to the list. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the current goals of the council and suggestions for future issues to consider.

Next meeting: June 18, 2014

