



## *Transition Community of Practice Advisory Council*

**June 18, 2014**

**Attending:** Barb Burghart, Judy Garber, Mary Robinson, Gerry Teevens, Eric Anthony, Brianne Skachenko, Amy Armstrong, Denise Harvey, Laura Mildenerger, Tammie Johnson, Joan Karpenko, Jerolyn Austin, Becky Backman, Kelsey Bless, Barb Cote, Debra Huber, Ruth Lacher, Christie Lazette, Kate Milner, Jennifer Moore, Moe Schroeder, Scott Weissman and Laurie Skadsem

**Welcome and ND Transition CoP Mission –** 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 Council and now we are part of a larger National Community of Practice since 2007.

**P & A:** Denise passed out information regarding work incentives. They are working on getting clarification on what a nurse can do and what is allowed for the school personnel.

**Children’s Health Services:** It was announced that October 20, 21 and 22, 2014 is the ND Autism Conference in Bismarck at the Ramada Inn. (the old Doublewood)

**Center for Independent Living:** Mary announced that there is a support group for TBI that meets monthly.

**Pathfinders:** All of the Parents Centers are being asked to look more closely at youth and families when applying for grants.

**Family Voices of ND:** Completed the parent institute where 14 parents participated.

**Pathfinders:** July 13 and 14 is the Youth Leadership Conference in Bismarck at the Radisson Inn.

**Peace Garden Special Ed:** Judy reported that a family retreat for families (10 to 12) was held in June at the Ministry Center in Lake Metigoese.

**A-STEP:** Expecting 5 new students to begin in the fall. They are looking at ways to sustain the program after the grant.

**Dreams in Motion:** Community Day in on September 13 in Bismarck at the VFW ring.

**VR – State Office:** Summer Work project is up and going. Teacher internship is also in process.

**Anne Carlsen Center: REAL @ Anne Carlsen Upcoming Events:**

- **Art Without Limits with Dwayne Szot**
  - July 2, 2014 – Agassiz School in Fargo
- **The Tricky World of Anansi the Spider: Drama production** (locations will be announced later)
  - July 14 – Bismarck - VSA office
  - July 16 – Jamestown - Arts Center
  - July 18 – Fargo - location TBA
- **iCan Bike Camp**
  - August 11 – 15, 2014
  - Moorhead Sports Center
  - Ages 8 years and up
  - Need volunteers for all week (good physical condition - will run approximately 2-3 miles in an one-hour session)

<b>Requirements for Participation in iCan Bike Camp (Rider must meet all of below criteria):</b>	
•Minimum of 8 years of age	•Able to sidestep to both sides
•Have a disability	•Minimum inseam of 20”
•Able to walk without assistive device	•Maximum weight 220 lbs.
•Willing and able to wear a properly fitted bike helmet	
•Able to attend camp all 5 days	

- **Iron Will Warrior Challenge – Mud Run at Annie’s House in Bottineau**
  - September 6, 2014

**Amy Armstrong presented the ASPIRE (Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment) Program:** This is a study for youth ages 14-16 who receive SSI. When you enroll, you and your family will get information to further education and employment. Half of the youth and families who enroll will be given added services and supports. The ASPIRE team will assist youth and families to find and use services in their communities. The purpose of the ASPIRE study is to compare the services and supports to find what works best for youth and families.

The states involved are Montana, ND, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and SD.

The ASPIRE services include:

- Help to navigate school options
- Information to improve education and career choices
- Paid work experience
- Understanding SSI and more
- Money management coaching with the family
- Parent support and training

To learn more about this program go to: [www.aspirewest.org](http://www.aspirewest.org)

**Employment First:** The vision of this group is for employment to be the first option for youth with disabilities when completing their education. The ND group has been working with a national committee. They are looking at developing a strategic plan for all youth with disabilities, and capacity building including policy change and training for educational staff.

**National Community of Practice Meeting and Secondary Transition Planning Institute and new NSTTAC Capacity Building Plan for 2014:** Gerry passed out the proposed goals for ND. The tool that was used is focused on a Transition Taxonomy with the following components: Student Focused Planning, Student Development, Interagency Collaboration, Family Involvement and Program Structures.

The proposed tasks are:

- To conduct teacher training to increase knowledge and rate of compliance to transition requirements.
- Develop job-coaching training modules to promote practice opportunities for skill development
- Conduct stakeholder planning to use data-based decision making (STEPSS Tool)
- Create a student survey and post on the Launch My Life Website
- Develop user friendly resources on guardianship
- Disseminate the guardianship resources

**ND Secondary Transition Conference** – The consensus of the group would be to have the conference in November 2015. There was some discussion regarding the location.

**LaunchMyLifeND.com** – Barb B. presented this 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 include:

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

Look at it at [www.LaunchMyLifeND.com](http://www.LaunchMyLifeND.com)

**Regional CoP's committee updates:** *Gerry offered to provide support for any of the Regional CoP's.*

1. Region I: Membership is still an issue for them. Two of the members are going to conduct a face-to-face survey with folks that would likely be involved.
2. Region II: No meetings will be held in the summer. It has been very good to meet at various organizations and they are asked to programs they provide.
3. Region III: No report.
4. Region IV: Meet 4 times per year. Data will continue to be collected. They are working on their mission statement which is too long and wordy.
5. Region V: Meet last week. Review annual goals – 1) October 20 and 21 Transition Expo. 2) Funding and 3) Training with businesses. ide 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: Next full meeting is coming up June 25. The sub-committee has been meeting and working on planning 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: No meeting this quarter. Go to 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** – July 13 and 14 at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck.
- **Healthy Transitions** – Tammie passed around a draft of the brochure that deals with the issues as outlined on the survey results. An app was recommended for this information.
- **Employment** – Barb stated the committee has met and is working on a training module for paras in the schools. The job shadow form is on the DPI website.
- **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.*

**Next meeting: September 17, 2014**

