

Transition Council meeting

6-17-15

No corrections on the minutes in December.

Attending: Jeff Anderson, Erik Anthony, Jerolyn Austin, David Booth, Becky Eberhardt, Lynn Dodge, Heather Everson, Kendra Faa, Judy Garber, Vickay gross, Jamie Hardt, Zanthi Price, Tonya Hertel, Becky Hoff, Tammie Johnson, Joan Karpenko, Matthew McCleary, Laura Mildenberger, Karen Nickel, Kyl Peterson, Mary Robinson, Pam Smith, Natasha Sawicki, Lisa Stymeist, Brian Osvold, Amy Osvold, Gerry Teevens, Laurie Skadsem and Chantel Zeller.

Mission reviewed: *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 information and solving problems and transition issues.

Federal Partners in Transition Releases 2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan – It is a plan where all the objectives should be in place by the year 2020.

FPT vision: “The vision is that all youth programs are based on universal design principals so that youth, regardless of their individual challenges, including disability, are equipped to pursue a self-directed pathway to address their interests, aspiration, and goals across all transition domains, including community engagement, education, employment, health and independent living that will ultimately result in positive everyday social inclusion.”

National Secondary Transition Capacity Building Institute: Laurie Skadsem, Gerry Teevens, Barb Burghart, Kendra Faa, Eric Anthony, and Karen Nickel attended the institute in May. The team presented information about the institute and the state plan developed during the institute. The plan was reviewed and discussed.

2015 State Plan Proposed Goals and Objectives – Gerry asked the group to review and make comments regarding making changes, or additions.

Student Focused Planning Goal: Increase student and youth engagement in transition planning tasks.

Objectives:

- Conduct youth survey to gather student perspective on what’s working and what is not working in the transition process.
- Identify ways to increase participation of youth on advisory committees.

There was discussion regarding the student survey and how we will get good data. It was suggested there be an online and paper form to complete.

Student-led IEP's was suggested as a good starting point for self-advocacy training and should be strongly encouraged. It was a consensus that the younger that this is started the better for the student and professionals.

Interagency Collaboration Goal: Increase per-employment services for youth with disabilities.

Objectives:

- Organize a task force to identify and implement a pre-employment transition curriculum.
- Identify evidence based practices to keep students engaged.

Family Involvement Goal: Increase understanding of guardianship and alternatives to guardianship amongst transition stakeholders.

Objective:

- Complete guide to guardianship for ND

There was Discussion regarding including Native American nations too. It was suggested that the State Council invite a speaker from the North Dakota Indian Affairs Office to present at our next meeting to do a Q&A. Tonya will make the contact.

Updates and Sharing:

ND School for the Deaf – Pam reported that 175 alumni from the school and families are coming back for the 125 anniversary June 19-21. Keith Wann, is coming to speak and do a comedy act. There are some community events as well. Pam is resigning this committee and Carol Liebeck will be replacing her.

DPI - AT guidelines are completed and should be out in the fall.

VR – Dickenson and Fargo VR have a grant with Sp Ed to work in the schools on soft skills, IEP planning, etc. Grand Forks is looking at some interviewing training and tracking hours that they are doing pre-employment services. The annual VR conference is October 14 -16 in Grand Forks.

DD Council - Small grant opportunities are available now. Focus groups will be in July and August – information will be coming.

TIPS – Fully staffed in all regions now.

Dakota Center Independent Living – There are many referrals coming in for services. An ADA open house is planned for July 23 - 2:00 to 6:00.

West Fargo Schools – Transition Academy graduating students this year are all employed and in appropriate living arrangements. Summer work program is in progress and they are working with CLS to provide the supports needed.

Peace Garden Special Ed Unit – Dinner Talks at Stanley went well for parents and students with about 25 participants. They have dinner, door prizes, and transition topics are discussed at this time. A family retreat was held at Lake Metigoshe and was well received.

Independence Inc – Teaching a class in disability pride, pre-employment, etc. in the schools. ADA is celebrating July 16 - 4 PM to 7 PM in Minot.

Pathfinder Parent Center – They have recently moved in Minot.

FVND – Parent Leadership annual conference was in June with good attendance and good comments.

Catholics Charities - Guardianship laws will be changing and that information will be coming out.

ND Vision Services/School for the Blind – Focus this year was on financial literacy. A class on soft skills is just being implemented.

Children’s Special Health Care Services – They provide gap filling services for children up to the age of 21 years for health care needs or services. Autism data base will be up and going by July 1, 2015 which will be mandated.

Anne Carlsen Center: We still have opening for riders and volunteers for **iCan Bike** Camps this summer. Registration forms are on the Anne Carlsen website. www.annecarlsen.org under events or call Kevin Sandness at 701.799.5971. The camps are being held in:

- Fargo/Moorhead – July 13-17 Hosted by ACC
- Bismarck – August 3-7 Hosted by Designer Genes
- Minot – August 10-14 Hosted by ACC and Pathfinder Parent Center

Participation Requirements for iCan Bike riders
Minimum of 8 years of age
Have a disability
Able to walk without assistive device
Willing and able to wear a properly fitted helmet
Able to attend camp all 5 days
Able to sidestep to both sides
Minimum inseam of 20”
Maximum weight of 220

Zot Artz Workshop for teaching artists and folks supporting individuals with disabilities –

- July 27: Grand Forks - Zot Artz workshop using adaptive art tools and techniques will assist you to you offer art experiences to children and adults in your community.
- July 28: Grand Forks - Zot Artz Community event, Lekotek Grand Opening and ADA celebration. Held at the ND Vision Service/School for the Blind.
- July 30: Bottineau - Zot Artz Community event and ADA celebration. Held at Annie’s House.
- All events begin 10 AM and conclude at 3 PM.
- All events are free.

Check out Anne Carlsen website. www.annecarlsen.org

Annie's House has a Summer Program that includes fieldtrip options such as nature classes, hikes, bird watching, fishing, paddle boating, etc. Contact Mike at Bottineu Winter Park to schedule a group, individual or family. 701.263.4556

Federation of Families – Matt McCleary reported the “Photo Voice” project was done in February and again in May. This project is bringing awareness to such things as suicide, bullying, etc. Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for July 19 and 20 at the Radisson Inn in Bismarck. Applications are on the ND Federation of Families website.

P & A – Primary issue is the 18 – 21 year group of individuals with finding appropriate services.

Practice Group (Sub-Committee) Updates:

Guardianship – The group decided to use the resource guide from Missouri entitled “MO Guardianship: Understanding Your Options and Alternatives”. This will be explored at our next meeting. Training is planned to go along with the guide when finished.

Youth Leadership – Youth Leadership conference and the youth survey was the topic of the last meeting.

Employment – This group is very close to finishing a Job Coaching Manual. Once the manual is completed some training should be completed.

Health Transitions – Have no new projects at this time.

Regional CoPs Updates:

Region I: No report.

Region II: The group will not be meeting this summer. There is good attendance for the meeting. A speaker will be coming October 2 on “Handicap This”.

Region III: Reviewed the Career Fair that was held this year. Turnout was down due to other factors such as school testing and other events. The event was a success for those who attended.

Region IV: Focused on getting ready for the coming year.

Region V: Good attendance. A speaker was at the last meeting regarding AETS. Tricia Page will be coming planned to help them use it more effectively.

Region VI: ACC hosted a panel regarding WIOA with VR, DD, and Job Service on March 25 at Jamestown City Hall. The last meeting we focused on how the group can work together to assist the schools in the coming year with such things as job coaching, assessments, transition classes, and transportation. VR shared some samples of what other areas in ND are doing.

Region VII: Meet quarterly and meet at different locations. The committee has invited speakers for different programs.

Region VIII: Working on organization of the Regional group.

2015 Secondary Transition Interagency Conference

- November 18 &19
- Ramada Hotel
- Vendor fee is \$50.00
- Registration fee is \$75.00
- Proposals for concurrent session speakers are due Aug 31, 2015.
- The Keynote Speakers include:
 - Melinda Jacobs – Disability Law
 - T. Marni Voss – Humorist and motivational
 - Mallory Cyr – Health Transitions
 - Employment Related Speaker –Steve Wooderson
 - Mark Coppin - AT and Transition

Any other suggestions for keynote or breakout session speakers should go to Gerry Teevens.

****Next Meeting is September 17
(Thursday- note the day change)**
Comfort Inn - Bismarck**