

Howard County Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities
March 10, 2016
Gateway Building
8:30-10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Attendees:

Rob Baynard, Patrick Boxall, Stephanie Chapple, Katie Collins-Ihrke, Naysha Conway, Bonnie Cronin, Ananta Hejeebu, Michelle Henry, Keri Hyde, Doris Jacobs, Kathy Land, Erica Lewis, Joan Ogaitis, Judy Pattik, Marya Pecukonis, Susan Potts, Dawson Robertson, Jermira Sarratt, Linda Schnapp, Stephanie Wallace, Kris Wright, Janice Yetter

Guests: Jane Jung-Potter, Physical Therapy Program Head, HCPSS; Jeff Trice, Business Services Program Manager, DLLR; Christy Stuart, Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education

Absent:

Joyce Agness, Beth Benevides, Ella Bradley, Ellen Flynn Giles, Jesse Guercio, Ranyne Herbert, Terri Hussman, Anthony Jackson, Sharon Kramer, Amity Lachowicz, Phyllis Madachy, Mary Manzoni, Kathy McSweeney, Barbara Moyer, Cindy Parr, Ann Scholz

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Celebrations:

- There is a Transition Symposium at Cedar Lane School scheduled for March 19, 2016. Carol Beatty, Secretary, Department of Disabilities, Karen Lee, Executive Director, SEEC, and County Executive Allan Kittleman will present. Included will be a youth track for 25 transitioning youth. This will be a free day for youth and will cover voter registration, self-advocacy, meal preparation, developing a vision, safety, etc.
- There will be a youth job fair on April 18, 2016, that is open to all 16-24 year olds in Howard County. It will take place at the Sheraton in Columbia. Vendors are to let Jermira Serratt know of interest. This event is free for all vendors.
- MD Healthy Transitions is building a website focusing on stigma reduction when seeking mental health treatment, and vocational skills, and it will serve as a forum for young people to share information. Others can direct link to this website.

- The Howard County Public School System will begin holding all students to the expectation of developing a resume and participating in mock interviews during the 11th grade year.

Approval of Minutes: Dawson Robertson made a motion to approve the minutes. Katie Collins-Ihrke seconded the motion. The January minutes were approved.

Maryland State Department of Education – Dr. Christy Stuart

Christy brought updates from MSDE. She shared information on the PROMISE initiative. Maryland is the first state to reach the enrollment of 2,000 youth. This is a team that supports families and youth 14-16 receiving SSI. Intensive wrap around services are provided with employment being the focus.

The Secondary Transition data process will be improving to ensure staff has access to data. Local transition coordinators are getting mini report cards that focus on drop out rates, graduation rates, transition and post-school outcomes.

There is a national technical assistance institute that brings teams together to do capacity building. Multiple stakeholders participate to build state capacity. They are looking to develop roles and responsibilities within the Maryland agencies.

Maryland Secondary Transition Quality Indicators have been developed by Maryland staff. Indicators are focused on Education, Career Development, Family and Student Involvement and Interagency Coordination. Five local school systems are piloting the tool. These will eventually be available to all in Maryland.

Beginning in middle school, digital portfolios will be developed and will encourage student self-reflection, cater to multiple learning styles, allow students to see personal growth, and provide a strength-based perspective. The information will carry over time and no longer reflect a point in time. Videos and pictures may be uploaded. This will be a support to the exit document, [but there is a movement toward replacement of the exit document while creating a summary of performance](#). The portfolio will tie in to Indicators 13 and 14. The tool is very innovative and is growing. Portfolio teams will support the student in developing these. This can serve as a tool to support the DDA application. Four school systems have piloted this – Cecil County with 14 year olds, Frederick County at age 16, Carroll County at age 18 and Caroline County with 21 year olds. This tool links directly to the online IEP. This has been age-mapped to focus on certain ages. There are public and private sections of the portfolio.

Project Updates – Joan Ogaitis

Joan developed a tool that supports the transition of students into adult life, including independent living. OILS (Ogaitis Independent Living Scale) helps to

optimize capacity to live independently. It covers multiple domains of adult life. It currently does not work off of a score and is not standardized. Its intended use is for gathering and sharing information between stakeholders. Joan has shared this with families to trial. It was suggested that it become a fluid document to follow students and to share with receiving agencies. It was suggested that parents understand that all of the skills listed are not required and technology should be lifted up.

Update on Transition Services – Janice Yetter and Dawson Robertson

Dawson shared that there is a job description being developed for transition teachers. He shared the expectations of Indicators 13 and 14. Transition teachers have historically worked in silos. Next year they will oversee compliance of Indicator 13 including being in charge of transition pages. A parent questionnaire has also been developed to ascertain parent interests and needs regarding transition. This is a way to request [that](#) the transition teacher attends the IEP team meeting. Teachers will also support the career research classes. During the 2017-18 school year, teachers will support diploma seeking students. Guidance Counselors will also be included in these conversations. Staff is looking to better engage middle school students in these deeper conversations regarding work.

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation - Jeff Trice, Business Services Program Manager, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning

DLLR is working in a two-prong approach with a supply and demand model. There are 32 job centers across the center and they partner with the other agencies in the state. There are close to 60 representatives from around the state. There were 300+ agencies trying to get people placed in jobs. Teams engage with business to determine needs and find the right candidates. Jeff recommended we change our vocabulary to employer versus business. We will then think about what the benefit is for businesses versus what [the](#) benefit [is](#) for employees. It makes needs important to both parties.

Technology is changing our world and our expectations. DLLR teams are working on this concept. Resumes are differing and may be obsolete in the future. Key words within resumes are needed to pop up when companies are using applicant-tracking software. Tagcrowd.com allows individuals to copy and paste a job description and [ensures](#) resumes include include key words. This also allows the same activity with a resume.

We are usually behind the curve on addressing employers' needs. If looking at leading indicators we need to look at companies that are up and coming. 3-D printing is growing across all venues of life. We need to think of this from an educational perspective with growing students for the workforce.

DLLR has resources that are deployed geographically. They call into businesses. Anyone has access to these staff. The Governors' Workforce Investment Board includes businesses as 50% of their membership. The goal is to get others to think differently and to re-market candidates.

Closing

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Gateway Building, room 303.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.