

MIG School to Work Transition Workgroup -- Dec. 8, 2006

1

In Attendance:

Patricia Anderson, SDE/BRS
Anthony LaCava, DRCFC
Barbara Konow, P&A
Cathy Ludlum, Principal Consultant
Barry Rita, BESB
Susan Zimmerman, FAVOR
Jo-Ellen Wickwire, DMR
Carol Stocks-Prandy, Transition Consultant
Nikki Richer, DHMAS
Karen Stigliano, SERC
Joyce Emmett, Danbury Transition Coordinator
Arlene Lugo, AT Coordinator
Patti Clay, BRS Staff to Workgroup
Kim Khantivong, BRS

Not Present

Jane Bolles, CPAC
Sara Lourie, DFC
Maggie Boyce, DRCFC

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introduction
3. Key messages for information
4. Best method for disseminating info
5. Approve timelines

Continued Discussion of Recommendations for RFP

- progress towards Independence -- responders should describe progression of opportunities toward employment
- AT - partner with schools and community resources to ensure AT transitions to work
- Cultural appropriateness - describe efforts towards cultural competency
- Mentoring -- describe collaborative efforts to develop mentoring opportunities
- Continuum of Emp. opportunities across disabilities
- Describe integration with non-disabled peers
- Definition or examples of youth involvement -
provide written technical assistance as part of RFP for involving youth in committees
- Match youth with adult- mentoring opportunities - can ask to describe if they will connect with community agencies, such as Big Brothers?
- Demonstrate collaboration with other agencies
- Suggestion to have a Bidder's Conference for RFP
 - Score bidders higher if they include student/parent workshops on transition. TA to the districts to prepare student for participation in grant?
- Have businesses involved in student job readiness
- Describe efforts in regards to socialization activities
- Ask bidders how do they plan to address employment readiness

Continued Discussion of Recommendations for RFP

3.

- Describe parent involvement to increase understanding around issues and planning for transition
- Families should be required partners
- Pre-emp skills should include Self advocacy
- Describe how bidder will address Benefits awareness and education
- Describe how bidders will address out of school youth and or partner with agencies who works with out of school youth.

Agenda Item 3: Determine Key Messages for low expectations/attitudes

4.

For stakeholders:

- students
- parents
- employers
- and educators

General Messages:

- Provide a variety of supports to employers
- once expectations are raised- provide everyone with next steps
- Print materials in English and spanish may not be enough to reach targeted populations - must also consider Spanish language radio, TV and other culturally appropriate mediums
- DOL website - pathways
- Links to website that are geared to youth
- Printed materials should open/lay flat
- Youthhood.org
- PR firm must understand this is about the Process
- Should have checklists of examples
- Connections- looking for what's available in our school

Messages to Youth

- every one can work - you can work
- every one can work - this means You
- Reach for the sky
- Just say Yes to work
- make goals

Messages to Youth, continued

- Try your best
- Don't take NO for an answer
- CT's new future workforce: Dedicated, Determined, Dependable
- CT's future workforce - includes all YOUTH
- Employing untapped potential
- Think outside the Box - be creative
- Why not you?
- Going to work with "Benefits"
- Work is good, Benefits are good - you can have both

Key Msg to Parents - families

- Don't let "what ifs" stop you
- Your youth CAN work - who can help you?
- Dignity of Risk - let them Dream - let them live
- Not letting them take the risk is the greatest risk
- Let them Learn from their mistakes
- You can't start too soon
- Moving from protection to empowerment
- It's the journey not the destination

KeyMsg to Educators

- High expectations for ALL
- Think outside the box
- Start early
- No child left out of anything
- If they learn to use it (AT) early they'll be successful later
- Employment is more than just a job
- Transition is more than employment
- Transition is about possibilities - not limitations
- Connections, Collaboration, and Communication
- Employment is individualized

KeyMsg to Employers

- disABLITES
- the Benefits to you
- Message around cost
- ABILITIES = SKILLS
- Dependable, Dedicated and Determined
- Community collaboration - supports

Key Msg to Employers

disABILITIES

- stats for Disability-related workers
- New source of employees
- Workforce of our future
- Show picture of people at table working "3 of these employees have disabilities, which ones are they?"

Messages we Don't want

- Don't target just one disability group
- Pity
- Stereotypes
- No 'special needs'
- No jargon
- focus on highest expectations
- must have people first language
- Avoid negative language

Agenda Item 4: Best Methods of Dissemination

8.

- Email dissemination
- Civic organizations
- distribute cd-roms
- ask focus groups how they would want to receive information
- CBIA
- Chamber of Commerce

Agenda Item 5: Timeline

Time line was distributed and approved - will be attached to these minutes.

Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting

Second Thurs. of every month from Jan to June - 9:30am to Noon

Jan 11
Feb 8
Mar 8
Apr 12
May 10
June 14

Send any thoughts or feedback to Patti - patti.clay@ct.gov

Karen Stigliano suggested that we hold our meetings at SERC. Patti will contact Karen to confirm.

