

DDAWNY Transition Committee

Date: February 10, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Erie 1 BOCES, Room B-1, 355 Harlem Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224

Items	NOTES
Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions 	Facilitators: Jim Scutt Note taker: Mary Richards
<u>Guest Panel:</u> Community Services (CSDD) Heritage Centers Cantalician People Inc.	<p>Topic: OPWDD Provider Agency Admissions Panel</p> <p>The agencies spoke about their services, particularly focusing on Pre-Vocational Services and Day Services.</p> <p>Eligibility begins with high school teachers and the Exit Summary. Exit Summaries have to accurately reflect and outline a student’s reasons for services, justifications, barriers, and needs. Exit Summaries need to particularly focus on why a student is not appropriate for Supported Employment or Pre-Voc, and why Day Hab is necessary. Some districts have had more success in getting exiting students approved for services when the teachers are trained on Exit Summaries, have contact with the MSC about goals, and submit Exit Summaries early (around December).</p> <p>It is important to stress to students and families that getting services in high school does not necessarily indicate approval for adult services. It is helpful to link students to services as early as possible, in case more evaluations or history are needed. Even linking in elementary school has benefits. Keep parents involved in the process. The process of applying to services can be overwhelming, with the need to apply for OPWDD eligibility, Medicaid, and Waiver Services. Once authorized for a particular service there are opening available, but the process of authorization can be lengthy. Services authorized will be based on the individual’s needs and interests.</p> <p>Do not wait until senior year to introduce students to agencies! Many agencies are willing to come to speak to schools, teachers, PTA groups, etc. about their services and to provide outreach, and schools can visit the agencies. Early referral and linkage to agencies means students can start services well before graduation, and that future programs can be developed based on the needs of groups of students transitioning out of secondary school.</p> <p>Oftentimes individuals are not authorized for service they request through Front Door. The agency might go back to write justification and add explanations regarding the need, and sometimes service will be approved after justification. Often services will be authorized, but not for the hours requested by family. Families find that the services authorized are not enough to fill week, a family member needs to support during the week. Families advocating through the Front Door repeatedly could be effective to gain services.</p> <p>Community Pre-Vocational</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ideal pre-voc candidates see themselves as ready for employment within 2-3 years, but not quite ready to work. • Pre-Voc programs expect a certain amount of independence, or the ability of the individual to acquire level of independence in a relatively small amount of time. One issue faced by Pre-Voc programs is referrals for individuals who are too high needs for the program, and are better suited for Day Hab. The pre-employment skills focused on in pre-voc can also be provided in other

services, such as Day Hab and Community Hab.

- Pre-Voc can be community based, and can be paid or unpaid. Ideally a person might progress through Pre-Voc programming in layers, based on their skill levels and independence levels.
 - Unpaid: Volunteer work, experience building and skill building, discovery.
 - Paid: Work experiences with support in the community or paid work in an agency setting
- Many agencies offer Pre-Voc programs to fulfill different interests, skill levels, and geographic needs. Programs also change and evolve. Contact agencies and visit programs to learn specifics.
- People Inc. has programs based off of college campuses. Students may do internships on campus or out in the community. Small group activities reinforce mobility, safety, and social interaction. Pre-Voc graduates to ETP. Most people work 3-6 hours with coaches for support. They are able to test employment readiness within a safe setting. Individuals usually have two employment experiences, earning a paycheck.
- CSDD has job training centers for individuals to learn skills to prepare for employment in different areas.

Day Habilitation

- Day Hab programs focus on social skills, community integration, daily living skills, volunteer experiences, etc.
- OPWDD needs strong justification to authorize Day Hab services. A case needs to be made as to why Pre-Voc and Supported Employment are not appropriate. Even for Community Pre-Voc justification should be made about why a student cannot enter supported employment.
- Students should consider remaining in high school until age 21 if they are interested in a Day Hab program. OPWDD will need additional justification as to why they left the high school services they are entitled to receive yet need Day Hab.
- Agencies will identify people in Day Hab programs who are ready to move on to Pre-Voc.
- Day Hab programs differ based on interests and skill levels. Some programs fill specific interests and partner with community organizations. An individual could move from one program to another as interests change, or to try something else.

Community Habilitation

- Comm Hab can be done as individual, group, or in a certified residence.
- Comm Hab can partner with other services, such a Pre-Voc, and provide help with organizing, schedules, to-do lists, hygiene, etc.
- Supports independence, experiences, preparation for future changes.
- Might be a useful support for individuals that don't do well in groups
- Comm Hab has limited hours per week but is not necessarily time-limited (can go on for years)
- Comm Hab – R is for certified residences. Individuals can get services from staff not working in that residence.

Changes and Issues:

- There is confusion around Pre-Voc programs, what they can do, and how to meet needs of people coming in. Individuals are not necessarily being authorized by OPWDD for what agency expects.
- Changing services model means individuals who were able to be supported in sheltered workshops are more difficult to serve in pre-voc programs. They

	<p>are difficult to serve in pre-voc and too high skills for day hab without walls. It becomes particularly frustrating when individuals have high physical needs and transportation needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals in pre-voc programs may need to get to site with staff or independently, but individuals in wheelchairs face a barrier of gaining appropriate transportation. • How can parents encourage system level change? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CMS funds services, NYS DOH negotiates waiver with CMS, and OPWDD interprets the negotiated waiver. Provider agencies fit their services into the OPWDD interpreted waiver guidelines. ○ The DDAWNY organization is an option to communicate issues and influence change. There will be a new Day Hab DDAWNY Committee.
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<p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCES-VR • NYSCB • CCDA • ILC • OPWDD • OMH • NYSRA • Parent Network • RSE-TASC • Others 	<p>RSE-TASC – Lisa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's important for schools to help families “establish need” so that they are able to get services. Schools tend to write documentation from a strengths and growth based perspective, however, Exit Summaries need to be brutally honest and needs based. The Exit Summary Document's purpose is to inform about student current functioning as they leave and what level of support is needed. • Exit Summary should be started at age 15 and continually worked on until exit. This document is vitally important for communicating future needs. • It is recommended for students who need extensive support to stay until age 21. School districts provide day-long programming, 5 days per week. This high level of support will very likely not be provided in the community and through OPWDD services. Ages 18-21 programming in schools would ideally be community and work-based, to prepare student for life after high school. • RSE-TASC trainings are not just for schools, anyone can come free to trainings. Sign up on E1B website (link below). <p>ACCES-VR – Sarah:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are often coming to ACCES-VR with unrealistic, sugar-coated expectations, conversations could be held with students earlier regarding realistic future career goals. • ACCES-VR would like to see students referred two year prior to school exit. • New ACCES-VR Contract comes out end of February of March, new RFPs will have additional services for youth, even at younger ages, to prepare for employment. • Career Fair to be held March 30th at E1B – collaboration between ACCES-VR, Parent Network, RSE-TASC, Employment Consortium <p>CCDA – Kristin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bridge to Success program at Buffalo State is a pre-college transition program being held this July. Students do not need to be enrolled in Buffalo State to participate. See flyer for addition info, or visit Buff State website. • Daemon Autism and Arts program March 22-23, register on Daemon's website. • CCDA College Night October 12th at UB Center for Tomorrow. • Keep in mind: accommodations in college are individuals, differ based on college and disability. • CCDA's website has effective college planning guide, which is a great resource to gain information on accommodations in college. • CCDA is putting together a 1-day training conference in March 2018. <p>Parent Network – Tonia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Front Door looks at documentation. If documentation is not accurate people end up going to programs that are not appropriate. Front Door makes decisions
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	<p>based on documents, not meeting and getting to know individual. It is very important for schools to show limitation and deficits, which parents sometimes struggle with. Look at student on typical day or bad day, not on their best day. What support does student need on their bad days?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Network has workshops on website. Parent Network will be doing Pathways to Graduation for parents in several locations at the end of February – see website. <p>Per Elizabeth from Olmsted Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid internship opportunities available. Flyers explain in more detail. Also mileage reimbursement scholarship. • Olmstead has telecommunications, business fundamentals, and hospitality courses for people with disabilities – there is no requirement to be legally blind. <p>People Inc. has Care Management for Children’s Health Homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves 7 counties in WNY: Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Genesee, Orleans, Cattaraugus, Monroe. • For children who do not qualify for OPWDD but have medical or psychological diagnosis. Birth to age 21. • Similar to Service Coordination. Must have active Medicaid or eligible for, two chronic health conditions (e.g. vision impairment, ADHD, asthma); HIV/AIDS; Complex Trauma (documented by psychologist, social worker); Mental Health Diagnosis. • Care manager will assist family with appointments, link to and communicate with providers, make connections. <p>CSDD will be becoming a Children’s Health Homes provider as well, in Erie and Niagara counties.</p> <p>Events Coming Up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Fair at E1B on March 30th, students register through their school • APSE Conference, April 30 – May 2, 2017, in Lake Placid • Orleans-Niagara Transition Conference, May 8, 4-8 p.m. at O-N Conference Center. • College Night by CCDA October 12, 2017 at UB Center for Tomorrow <p>Website Links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSE-TASC registration calendar http://www.e1b.org/OurServices/ByDivision/SchoolSupportServices/CalendarforSchoolSupportServices.aspx • DDAWNY http://www.ddawny.org/ • CCDA http://www.wnyccda.org/ • Parent Network https://parentnetworkwny.org/
Next Meeting	<p>DATE/TIME: March 17, 2017 LOCATION: Beechwood Continuing Care, 2235 Millersport Hwy, Getzville, 14068 TOPIC: Project Search & School-Business Partnerships</p>