

## State Support Team Region 1

### Regional Transition Council Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2010

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Members in Attendance:** Erin Thompson (Social Security Administration), Deb Haig (Penta Career Center), Sherry Markley (Rehabilitation Services Commission), Cathy Ruiz (Parent Mentor, Western Buckeye ESC) , Laura Springer (Defiance City Schools), Amy Szymanski, Randy Ward (Hancock County ESC)

**Members unable to attend:** Julie Chandler (The Anderson, Inc.) Jeannette Bostelman (VRP3 Vocational Coordinator/Career Link Manager, Behavioral Connections Wood County), Katina Karoulis (Lucas County Board of DD), David Manley (Toledo Public Schools), Kristi Rotroff (Northwest State University), Joan Zimmerly (Social Security Administration), Rob Cunningham (Bowling Green State University), Patti Devlin (University of Toledo)

**Special Guests:** Jill Barnhisel, Beth Rohrbacher, Lynn McKahan (State Support Team Region 1), Vicki Snyder, Nancy Vendemo (Lucas County Board of DD)

#### Once around the table:

**Amy Szymanski:** The 2011 Statewide Career, Vocational, Transition and Employment Conference will be held on March 2 and 3. Presenters are needed. The call for papers can be accessed at [www.oasces.org](http://www.oasces.org)

APSE (formerly known as the Association for Persons in Supported Employment) is hosting a series of four webinars with James Emmett titled “Transition Planning for Individuals with Autism.” The webinars will be held at 2 - 3 p.m. on September 16th, October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th, 2010. Cost per webinar is \$40 for APSE members, \$90 for non-APSE members. Registration can be accessed at <http://www.apse.org/training/webcasts.cfm>

Amy asked Erin to clarify the effect that an IEP transition plan has on social security eligibility renewal when a student turns 18. Erin explained that Social Security often has difficulty obtaining information from schools. To verify continuing eligibility for students who are still in school at age 18, Social Security sends verification materials directly to schools. The group discussed that often this information does not make it into the correct hands; the attached envelope is too small, etc. Erin said that Social Security has looked at methods to improve the process. Vicki stressed that parents need to be prepared with school materials that can be passed on to Social Security and other agencies. She noted that a portfolio/binder works well to organize materials. The group agreed the key is to be

sure the correct people receive the information in a timely, efficient manner. The Portfolio for Life, a grant-funded project through Lucas County Board of DD, will have an exhibitor booth at the Expo. This portfolio may be a way for students and families to organize information.

**Sherry Markley** announced that Kurt Morman will be the new area manager for RSC, starting September 27. Sherry will send Amy information to share on the newly established customized employment grant with Griffin & Hammis. In Region 1, RSC, Lucas County DD and Goodwill are partners in this grant. Goodwill will serve as one of five training sites in the state. Individuals eligible for RSC services would have access to the employment opportunities as the grant implementation progresses.

**Randy Ward** continues work with Blanchard Valley School, Findlay City Schools and the Hancock County ESC to develop a Transition Group to address the needs of students. Blanchard Valley will consider students ages 16-21 and the ESC will work with students ages 18-21.

**Erin Thompson** shared that the Toledo area will be opening a Social Security Hearings Office in downtown Toledo. The office will employ 55 employees with ten judges and will expedite hearings in the area.

**Laura Springer** has been busy with special education paperwork. She will be sharing information on the Postsecondary Transition Expo at the Defiance City Schools Board Meeting on October 25 which is aired on a local public access television channel.

**Deb Haig** explained that Penta has created 32 unpaid student internships that have been created for those students who have met graduation requirements (some may have one class left) and need continued development of work skills. The majority of these students have a cognitive disability. Students are provided a group job coach. Job sites include The Toledo Museum of Art, several County Clubs, Hobby Lobby, Lutheran Home of Mercy, Toledo Metroparks, and the Hilton Garden Inn.

**Vicki/Nancy** provided information on the customized employment grant mentioned in Sherry's report above and will also share materials with Amy for the group. It appears that schools and other agencies will eventually have training opportunities through the grant to obtain community certification for customized employment techniques. Lucas County DD is also involved in a grant with the Autism MODEL School and Bowling Green State University using I pads to provide job coaching. Amy mentioned that this grant will be showcased at the Expo.

**Cathy Ruiz** stated that the Behavior Modification in-service that was held in her area on August 26 was well-attended and informative.

**Postsecondary Expo:**

Amy summarized information as outlined in the agenda. She will pass along specific information as needed to those Council members who were unable to attend. Interest in the Expo appears strong overall and council members will continue to promote registration. Amy will also work with individuals/small groups to wrap-up any planning loose ends. The Council determined that it is not necessary to meet as a group again before the Expo, therefore, the **October 12 Regional Transition Council meeting has been cancelled.**

**Next Event: THE EXPO!!!****Next Regional Transition Council Meeting:****December 14, 2010****State Support Team Region 1**