

Transition Committee
Meeting Minutes
10-27-11

Members present: Denise Bengtson, Lindsay Brown, Katie Cain, Cara Ehegartner, Shelley Dahl, Janet Drudik, J.D. Simmons, Gerry Ussery (for Deb Gardner), Jack Shepard

The committee reviewed and discussed the changes to the transition consent form and the changes to the Transition Chapter. Much of the discussion was on providing employment opportunities for high school students and the the case scenarios to help determine when it is appropriate to take a successful closure on a student who is still in high school.

The committee discussed transition testing and assessments and the role of VR and responsibility of the school. A short questionnaire was sent to educators on the topic and their responses were discussed. More educator input on this topic will be received when Janet meets with the statewide Transition Practitioners group on Oct 28th. It is anticipated a small group of VR staff and educators will meet and develop guidance for both schools and VR staff.

The group discussed MDT reports and staffs' understanding of the content of the reports - in particular, the sub-tests and their implications. It was determined that some training, especially for newer staff would be helpful. It was recommended that a school psy provide training at one of the monthly training videoconferences. Katie recommended a school psy and will contact her.

The committee discussed the development of the short-term training programs and lessons learned. Agreed that these are a good option and that more time for screening would be helpful. There is a lot of hands-on required at implementation - may need to help the students better understand the work environment they are going into. May want to consider a peer job or training coach to assist the student.

The committee identified 6 possible checklists the may be appropriate and specific to the transition program. Committee members divided these up and will work on the initial draft of the checklists then send to the full committee review and revision.

The committee determined that we would maintain current membership until July 2012 - then half of the committee will rotate off and new members will be appointed.

The committee also decided to meet for 2 hours every other month via video, then will meet in person for a full day meeting toward the end of May.

The 2011 Transition Measures were reviewed and compared with the 2010 outcomes. They are as follows:

TR students who applied to the Employment Program: 2010 = 813 and 2011 = 868.

TR students who are successfully employed via the Employment Program: 2010 = 340 and 2011 = 397.

Rehab rate for TR students who entered the Employment Program: 2010 = 66% and 2011 = 68%

There was improvement in all three transition measures.

Discussed blogs - staff would like to know how many hits we are getting. Recommend blog address be put on info packets and our business cards.

Discussed internet access and access to SRS IEP's. Most have - still some issues with some schools. We are working on OPS and may have it resolved.

Comment - some teachers accompany students to the office while our staff are working with the students. The teachers would like internet access to better utilize their time while waiting for the student, but we can't provide. As we request access from the schools, it is awkward to deny.

A couple committee members have been sending out lots of emails to parents to increase communication with and involvement of parents - however, very little response from parents.

Jack Shepard
Program Director for Transition