

## Interagency Core Teams Collaboration Event 2019

### Workshop Descriptions and Room Assignments

#### **Core Transition Teams 101 Q&A:**

**Presenters:** Rocko Gieselman and Kate Stevens

**Location:** Escapade 1

Are you curious about what other Core Teams do throughout the year? Bring your questions to a panel of Core Team members from across the state to learn about their successes, challenges and how their teams function. There will be an opportunity to share what has worked for your team, and what challenges you face. Together we will work to come up with solutions to problems around engagement and commitment in each unique community. Come explore the potential that lies within interagency connection made possible by Core Transition Teams.

**Rocko Gieselman** is the VocRehab Transition Counselor in Washington County. They are excited about the work that Core Teams are doing statewide to support their local communities.

**Kate Stevens** is a Senior VocRehab Transition Counselor in Windham County. She loves helping young people explore opportunities that await them as they move towards life after high school and figure out how "to adult".

#### **Pathways to Success - Post-Secondary Training**

##### **Opportunities:**

**Presenters:** Mathew Barewicz and Hugh Bradshaw

**Location:** Northstar 1

While post-secondary education is a great option for many young adults, there are also exciting opportunities in a variety of

occupations that lead to good wages. Learn about Registered Apprenticeships, employer-sponsored training programs and other opportunities for Vermonters.

**Mathew Barewicz** is the Economic & Labor Market Information Chief for the Vermont Department of Labor. He has 14 years of professional experience as an economist across both the public and private sector. Additionally, he has provided economic instruction at the collegiate level. Prior to his work in economics, he was employed in the brokerage industry as an equity trader. Mathew graduated from the University of Vermont with a double major in economics and French. He earned his master's degree in economics from San Diego State University. In his free time, Mathew supports music and the arts.

**Hugh Bradshaw** is the Assistant Director of Workforce Development for the Department of Labor. For the past 12 years, he was the Employment Services Manager for VocRehab Vermont based in Waterbury, VT. Prior to his position with VocRehab, he was Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation (VABIR), a statewide non-profit partially funded through a Projects with Industry grant from the US Department of Education. Mr. Bradshaw was responsible for all employment programs within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and worked with businesses across the state to help them meet their staffing needs by recruiting Vermonters with disabilities.

**Youth Voice! Hear the Inspiring Stories from Young Adults who Turned their Dreams into Reality:**

**Presenters:** Martha Frank and a panel of transition aged youth

**Location:** Northstar 2

What does it take to have a successful transition from high school to postsecondary or employment? A panel of young Vermonters

will share their transition tips and stories, exploring the important topics ranging from IEP transition plans, post-secondary paths, the world of employment, independent living, and the agencies and resources that helped along the way. These successful young adults will share what helped, what didn't, and what is really making a difference in their adult life. Come hear from youth who raised their aspirations, faced their challenges head on, and succeeded!

**Martha Frank** attended William Paterson University and holds an undergraduate degree in special education; her graduate coursework includes Special Education Law and Transition to Adulthood courses at Kansas University. She holds a Special Education Consulting Level II Teacher License in Vermont and is employed at Vermont Family Network for 16 years as a Family Consultant. She has extensive experience in the fields of transition, postsecondary education, special education law and education for students with disabilities. She has been involved in the Core Team initiatives since their inception and helped and supported the development of the Youth Advisory Council. She also developed the VFN Transition Toolkit for Youth with Disabilities. She has served on many state committees with a focus on transition age youth such as State Rehabilitation Council and the Division of Blind and Visually Impaired State Rehabilitation Council.

**Making VT High School Graduation Requirements Accessible for all Student with The Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements Access Plan:**

**Presenters:** John Spinney

**Location:** Oscar 3

As we near the 2020 goal for students graduating in a proficiency-based system, all public schools serving secondary students

should have proficiency-based graduation requirements (PBGRs). In anticipation of this goal, we've long known we need a system to replace the multi-year plan / alternative credit accrual plan. This workshop will provide an overview of the new Proficiency Based Graduation Access Plan (PBGR AP). The PBGR AP will replace the Multi Year Plan (MYP) since the MYP was based around credits/Carnegie units. The same spirit of accessibility is in place here with the PBGR AP and teachers will need a tool like this to help make the graduation requirements accessible for students with intensive needs. This workshop will provide an overview and will draw from an example student in the VT AOE Case Study Project. Participants are encouraged to bring a student profile that they can practice using the template with.

**John Spinney** has worked at the Vermont Agency of Education for 14 years. He continues to enjoy working in education and is 100% focused on helping schools develop systems that create equity for all students in terms of accessing the VT Flexible Pathway options. John also works on many projects related to helping schools prepare students with disabilities for the transition to post high school employment or post-secondary education. The special education team at the VT AOE is dedicated to access, inclusion, and equity for all students.

**Work-Based Learning: Building a Systems Approach for Student Success:**

**Presenters:** Rich Tulikangas and Veronica Newton

**Location:** Oscar 1

This session will review the current state of work-based learning in Vermont, provide an overview of key materials related to successful program implementation, and introduce new resources from the Agency of Education and VocRehab. In addition, Core Team members from Barre/Montpelier including VR, VABIR and Spaulding High School will present on how they collaborate with

each other and local employers to support student success with work-based learning.

**Rich Tulikangas** currently serves as Director of Linking Learning to Careers, a statewide initiative through VocRehab Vermont to increase career and college readiness for high school students with disabilities. He has been passionate about preparing young people for life beyond high school and been a leader of numerous programs and organizations in Vermont and nationally with that focus for over 30 years. He has presented at numerous conferences and teaches a graduate course focused on supporting secondary educators with implementing WBL.

**Veronica Newton** is the Program Manager for the Personalized Learning Team and the Work Based Learning Program Coordinator at the Agency of Education. This team is designed to support systems' implementation of Vermont's Act 77 Flexible Pathways initiative and the Education Quality Standards. As a member of the Student Pathways Division, Veronica also works on several cross-sector teams around developing guidelines to address equity of opportunity in flexible pathway programming. Veronica holds an Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a BA from the University of New Hampshire.

### **Strategies to Empower Opportunity-Youth with Disabilities:**

**Presenter:** Karin Grandon

**Location:** Gateway 1

The transition from youth to adulthood is challenging for almost every young person. This is particularly true for young people with disabilities. Yet, it is in those crucial transition-age years that a young person's future can be determined. This session will discuss techniques and strategies shared by the federally funded Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC) including *The Guideposts for Success*. The Guideposts are designed to help steer families, institutions, and youth themselves through the

transition process. Learn about the Guideposts, the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Learning Lab and the Y-TAC VR mentoring programs that have helped state VR agencies improve successful outcomes for young people with disabilities transitioning to adulthood.

**Karin Grandon** was a Rehabilitation Counselor and Deputy Administrator for the Department of Economic Security (DES), Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA); in charge of programs for individuals who are blind, low vision, Deaf-blind, Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Working for the state rehabilitation agency, she traveled to both metro and rural areas across Arizona and has been fortunate to work with many of the Arizona Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation agencies. Karin is currently a State Technical Assistance Liaison for the Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC).

**“Employment for All!” – Progressive Employment Documentary:**

**Presenters:** Rachael Potts, Elizabeth King, River Ploof and Faith DeFelice

**Location:** Gateway 2

Sit back and enjoy the short documentary, Employment for All! This film takes a look at three high school students in various stages of progressive employment. The film will be followed by discussion with the students in the film.

**River Ploof** is a graduate of Harwood Union High School. He works at Billings Mobil in Waterbury and loves movies and Johnny Cash.

**Faith DeFelice** is a graduate of Harwood Union High School. She works at Shaw's in Waterbury and loves hanging out with friends and swimming.

**Elizabeth King** has been a special education teacher at Harwood Union for 10 years. For several years, she has worked with the Harwood Transition students, preparing them for life and work outside of high school. She is a mother to twin 6-year-old boys that keep her busy outside of school.

**Rachael Potts** has been an Employment Specialist and the Internship Coordinator at Harwood Union for 12 years. She enjoys working with all students at Harwood to figure out what a purposeful and fulfilling future might look like. She is often found at soccer practice with her kids or skiing on the weekends.

**The Transition from High School to College for Students with Disabilities: Challenges and Opportunities:**

**Presenters:** Chris Kennedy, Angie Albeck and Michele Feiner

**Location:** Escapade 2

Join us for a panel discussion about strategies to smooth the transition that students and families experience when starting college. Panelists will include representatives from secondary ed, higher ed, and College Steps.

**Chris Kennedy** is the regional director for College Steps and holds both his graduate and undergraduate degree in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin. Chris' previous roles include Program Coordinator at Johnson State College, Assistant Professor of Inclusive Elementary Education at Johnson State College, as a special education teacher in both public and private schools, and in various residential and support services for individuals with disabilities in the United States as well as abroad.

**Angie Albeck** has been working in disability services at the Community College of Vermont since 2008. She currently serves as the Associate Dean of Students and ADA/504 Compliance Officer.

**Michele Feiner** is the Coordinator of Disability Services at Northern Vermont University- Johnson. Prior to coming to NVU she spent almost twenty years as a clinical School Social Worker for BFA Fairfax, working with Preschool through Grade 12 students and their families. Michele is very involved with the foster care and adoption communities as a foster and adoptive parent, an educator and writer, and through serving on the boards of VFAPA and Fostering Better Tomorrows. When not engaged in work, Michele enjoys Zumba, traveling, and spending time with her two grandchildren.

### **Essential Transition Services System Crosswalk**

**Facilitators:** Jess DeCarolis, AOE Student Pathways, Division Director, Tara Howe, DVR Transition Program Director and Representatives from Partner Agencies

**Location:** Oscar 2

Interagency partners serving students who qualify for individualized education plans beginning Grade 7 through the first year following graduation (one-year post-secondary) are working on how to document the system of transition services. For school professionals and interagency partners, it can be confusing when each service kicks in. We are compiling an essential transition services crosswalk that identifies which agencies are federally obligated to be involved at different stages of a young person's life. The intention is to provide an overall grid to aid us in understanding how our work connects and supports each other's services, as well as being clear with students and families around what agencies may be able to assist with the preparation and transition to life after high school. The focus of this workshop will be to discuss our rough draft of the Essential Transition Services Crosswalk including the content, benefits, and thoughts on how to present this information to LEAs and Interagency Partners.