

Mission Statement

Collaborating to develop, provide, and manage an effective transition process for students in Rutland County.

Facilitator: Kathi Cassidy Note Taker: Marianne Langello

Attendance: Lynn Merritt, FHUHS, Deb Robinson, FHUHS Margaret Hayward, FHUHS, Becky Dansereau, DOL Stacey Carmody, DOL Michael Smelser, Rutland Mental Health - CAP Patty Moore, College STEPS Kathi Cassidy VR, Marianne Langello, VR and Will Pendlebury VR

1. **1:30-1:45 Welcome and Introductions - Kathi**
2. **1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Guest Speaker, Patty Moore, College Steps + Department of Vocational Rehab 2019-2020 Pilot Expansion Program**

The program has expanded to Lyndon and Johnson State (Northern Vermont University) in addition to Castleton, students that don't qualify for development services are eligible; supports with Academic Enhancement, Social Integration, Living and Independence and Pre-employment skill development.

Students receive the minimum of 4 hours per week of support and up to the maximum of 10 hours to review goals, what's going well and mentors that can assist with social integration and academics. In class supports are not available which is different from the traditional program. Part time or full-time students, living on or off campus can participate. Daily homework sessions with mentors are available during "non class time" which can extend into the evening. Patty provides updates to the VR Counselors monthly.

Patty shared that students are introduced to the Academic Support Center, makes referrals for mental health counseling, assists with job development and provides connections for campus resources. There are currently 5 students at Castleton, total of 15 throughout the states. College visits or shadows are encouraged. Mentors are trained by College Steps and can attend professional development opportunities.

3. **2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

1) Transition Fair Committee - Next meeting, February 18 at 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the VR office; will meet after today's Core Team Meeting. Transition Fair is confirmed for Tuesday, April 8 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, located at Castleton University Campus Center. If anyone has

suggestions for vendors or interested in being on the planning committee, please let Kathy know. Kathi will send out a “Save the Date” to schools and vendors. A table for assistance with writing resumes was suggested; Stacey offered to bring resume writing books, Lynn is teaching a class that uses templates, Margaret suggested resume.com which provides samples and is user friendly.

Patty suggested including a handout on “dress for success” a ten-minute elevator speech. Michael shared Project Search is videotaping “resumes” which have been used at Panera Bread and Applebee’s. Project Search will have a table at the fair and Kathi suggested having the videotaping resumes available. An idea was suggested to have a Human Resources Director available to conduct 15 minute interviews; Margaret suggested the RRMC Human Resources Director as they cover many departments and variety of positions.

Deb asked if Jennifer Westabee could provide mock interviews? Other suggestions include Price Chopper Hiring Advantage program, Teresa Miele, Greater Rutland Area Personnel Executives, Patty will ask Castleton University HR Director, Margaret will contact Slate Valley’s HR Director.

In order to increase attendance, there were several suggestions during a “braining storming” session:

Invite Guidance Counselors, Special Ed. Directors and alternative schools, John Spinney, Home School Coordinator, receive communications about the Transition Fair. Lynn suggested e-mailing the letter and permission slips. Add to school web sites, advertise in Mountain Times, Rutland Herald, Lakes Region and other local newspapers that don’t charge, attend local sporting events and include testimonials.

- 2. Supported Decision Making Pilot** - Kathi Shared copies of Impact (a journal published by the Institute on Community Integration and the Research and Training Center on Community Living and Employment, College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota); an article about FHUHS’s involvement is on page 19. A variety of topics during the process included helping to understand the students dreams and desires, parents had an opportunity to discuss their concerns, topics included transitioning to adulthood, shared living, social security benefits and finances. Patty suggested a presentation at the Core Team event and Transition fair, possibly Jocelyn?

3. **Project SEARCH** - Michael Smelser provided an update; 6 students participating, a student working in the financial department discovered a significant error which was a success, other students have explored career paths as a result of the program, a student who was working at Hannaford's resigned, no longer needs supports and is planning on working with the elderly. Students have been provided with choices that are leading into different career paths as an outcome.

Becky was asked to clarify her role and the apprenticeship program. She works with employers to provide registered apprenticeships; formal on the job training and classes are required to combine the theory. Sponsor lists are available on the DOL website:

https://labor.vermont.gov/sites/labor/files/doc_library/list%20Sponsors%20revised%207-19-2019.pdf

A non-profit organization, HITEC offers a medical assistant, coding and insurance apprenticeships. <https://www.vthitec.org/>