**Benefits Counseling for High School Youth- Marybeth Carey, VocRehab**

*Note: Marybeth called Vermont Health Connect after the meeting to verify information and the following overview includes several edits.*

* Overview:
	+ Referrals to Marybeth are made by a VocRehab Counselor and the participant needs to have an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and be engaged with VR services.
	+ Marybeth contacts the Social Security Administration for information on the participant after receiving the referral from a VocRehab Counselor
	+ 800-361-1239 is the toll free Benefits Helpline for those with general questions. Individuals do not need to have an open case with VocRehab to connect with the Help Line.
	+ Vermont Health Connect (VHC) is for individuals who do not have other insurance and it tends to be Medicaid. Dr. Dinosaur ends at age 19 and the youth should be able to apply for Medicaid 30 days before their 19th birthday.
		- If a youth is working, the youth can be their own dependent and get VHC on their own providing their parents are not claiming them as a dependent. The key is that the youth *must be working.* The youth cannot make more than, ~~$1396.10~~ correction, $1437.50 gross income per month to be eligible for Medicaid. The youth will have to report changes in income within ten days of knowing.
		- If the youth’s parent is claiming them as a dependent, they must list all household information and income. It does not matter if the youth is working or not.
		- **Vermont Health Connect** will do an over-the-phone application: 1-800-250-8427. For general inquiries call 855-899-9600.
		- **Vermont Legal Aid** has employees who specialize in healthcare. Vermont Legal Aid can help with information and advocacy: 1-800-917-7787
* What should students and their families be aware of as they transition out of school?
	+ Section 301, work incentive.
	+ Re-determination happens for youth receiving social security income (SSI) in their name at age 18 to certify them as an adult. Most individuals don’t qualify under the adult eligibility guidelines and loose their benefit. If a student had an IEP (school) or IPE (VocRehab), the student could be able to continue to receive that SSI check until that plan has been completed.
	+ When filling out the age 18 redetermination, it is important to fill it out with a full explanation of the individual’s barriers and challenges as if they had no supports in place.
	+ Marybeth encourages filing an appeal if the student is denied a social security benefit at age 18.

**Washington County Mental Health Services- Noelle Pronovost, JOBS Program (WCMHS program but VocRehab grant)**

* Eligibility
	+ 18 – 2nd birthday
	+ Can engaged as early as 16 if the student has dropped out of school
	+ Referrals take place during the last semester of high school or 6 months prior to graduation
		- JOBS can have conversations with students and school teams regarding potential referrals earlier than six months, if releases have been signed.
	+ Mental health diagnosis with an IEP or 504 as documentation.
	+ IQ needs to be at 70 or above
* How to refer
	+ JOBS have referral forms that can be sent to Noelle to assist with determining appropriateness. Individuals need to be a client of WCMHS.
	+ Start by referring the individual to WCMHS general intake
	+ If the student is connected with VR (working with Rocko), include them in the referral process
* Description of services provided
	+ Support with mental health treatment
	+ Job supports with short and long-term goals. Whether that is graduating from high school, engaging in post-secondary education or training programs, and obtaining jobs.
	+ Assist with navigating resources within the community such as Capstone and housing. Connecting with WIOA programs.
	+ Service delivery looks different for each individual client
		- Can meet in the community, office, or schools and can meet with the individual as much as they need.
	+ Folks have other programs available to them after they age out. JOBS can support individuals with referral processes for other community programs.
		- Could someone go from JOBS to Green Mountain Workforce?
			* Through CSP, long-term, chronic mental health. There are no age limitations and includes hands-on case management. This program is through WCMHS.