

Chittenden County Core Team Meeting

5/7/2020

Attendees: Renee Gardner (SBHS), Pam Laser (ReSource), Sarah Franco (VABIR), Simon Parlante (BHS), Cindy Seguin (VR), Ron Turner (CCS), Angie Albeck (CCV), Eric Johnson (VR), Ethan Mauer (VAL), Shauna McIsaac (Northlands Job Corps), Marinell Newton (CSHN – DOH), Martha Frank (VFN), Courtney Courtis (VABIR), Eric Faber (ReSource Intern), John Spinney (AOE), Oliver Kranicfeld (EHS), Brittain Lovett (VR), Alyssa Whitney (VR).

Team Check Ins/Updates:

CCS – All remote work, weekly meetings with students to discuss future planning and current coping skills, job development work with employers regarding return to work process.

SBHS – Running classes daily, students do one to four hours of meetings, depending on classes/engagement. Project Search interviews occurred via Zoom, Bridging Program continues to serve students.

VFN- Youth Summit happening virtually on 5/28, please encourage your youth to register – this is an event aimed at them!

BHS – All remote work, current focus on trying to connect with students who have not yet engaged, making sure they are safe. Using Career One Stop and lots of screen sharing for future planning activities.

VR LLC – Remote work with students, working to introduce new LLC YES Sarah Franco to students who are ready, attempting to deliver most services.

DOH CSHN – Learning more about the larger system of transition support, increasing use of technology to remain in contact with families.

ReSource – YouthBuild students are being served academically online. Engagement is challenging, Other training programs currently closed, but building training exploring options for restarting in the coming months.

VR – Partnered with CCV to offer Intro to College and Careers course for students connected to VR. Enrollment closes on 5/15, course starts on 5/18. Let us know if you have students who might be interested! Working with students and families remotely, offering resources as things become available.

CCV – Wrapping up spring semester, summer session starts soon, online offering online options as of now. Lots of work also going into supporting instructors to shift to online content delivery, and into supporting students to receive online learning.

Northlands Job Corps – Now accepting online applications for admission, however not actually starting to provide services to those students yet. Getting online learning up and running for current students.

AOE – Lots of work updating guidance for schools as the situation shifts

VAL – Offering online classes with students who are engaged, engagement is challenging. Taking names of referrals, but still required to administer assessments to determine services and it is not yet available online. Processing questions about fairness and accuracy of results if assessment delivered online. Considering offering on site assessments, but not sure that in person learning will be coming any time soon.

VABIR – Working with a small number of students who are still engaged. Conducting informational interviews virtually, working on resumes and discussing disability disclosure, focused mainly on preparatory activities.

EHS – All work happening remotely, interested in sharing resources and ideas.

Youth Engagement

- Generally, youth engagement is down. Those who were engaged are now experiencing diminishment of engagement. Some have found that students are generally not working independently, but responding to classroom style activities where there is an opportunity to have interaction with teacher/peers.
- Success stories include personal/social connection elements – conversation is the most powerful tool. It seems youth aren't interested in task completion, but will talk.
- There are students who were not expected to do well in this distance learning model that are excelling. Technology has made it a bit easier, especially screen sharing so you can work on the same thing at the same time. However, a school is still a school and academic work needs to be completed. People have been pretty patient with each other.
- A question was posed about any differences in student engagement between general ed students and those on IEP/504 plans. Anecdotal evidence suggests a generalized trend down in engagement, even in students who were high performers when physically in school.

Summer Plans

- ReSource is hoping to offer Construction 101 in June or July. Please remember that these individuals will need to be ready and willing to engage in full time (40 hrs) work that is physical. There may be other options for them if work readiness is an issue, but unsure at this time.
- Questions about extended school years were raised – AOE is preparing a memo on that, as well as on graduation ceremonies.
- VR will be offering Intro to College and Careers starting 5/18/2020. Other CCV classes likely to occur as well. Forthcoming webinars with UVM extension, College Compass, etc. Also talking as larger transition counselor team to design online summer activities. More to come!

AOE Updates

Much work is occurring on how to provide free and appropriate education during distance learning.

- Emphasis on preparing Summary of Performance for students who are graduating – this should always happen, but pockets of VT have not produced them as routinely and it will help students share their challenges and what works best in terms of support with colleges, employers, or their future service providers via the local designated agency. These summaries should be student driven and completed with them. A new template is being worked on, but please use the existing one for now.
- All resources/updated guidance to be found here: <https://education.vermont.gov/news/covid-19-guidance-vermont-schools>
- Transition Specific information to be found here (reflects the mindset behind shifts): <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/implementing-transition-services-during-remote-learning>
- Graduation related guidance is forthcoming – look for a video on in the COVID-19 section of the website.
- Previous resource wiki is not being updated as often as AOE website. Check there, and the VFN Transition Toolkit (<https://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org/what-we-do/family-support/transition-to-adulthood-toolkit/>) for resources. A transition focused section of the AOE website will be coming at some point in the future.
- Virtual Job Shadow – not currently able to be funded at a statewide level, but there are other options included in the transition related information, as well as the transition toolkit.