



## Rutland County Core Team Meeting

August 10, 2020

1:30pm to 3pm

Held Virtual Meeting via Skype

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

**Facilitator:** Kathi Cassidy, **Co-Facilitator:** Samantha Kowalski **Note Taker:** Marianne Langello

**Attendance:** Stacey Carmody DOL WIOA, Michael Smelser, Rutland Mental Health; Kathi Cassidy VR; Marianne Langello, VR; Samantha Kowalski, VABIR, Will Pendlebury VR; Deb Robinson, Fair Haven Union High School, Patty Moore, Castleton University College Steps, Margaret Hayward, Fair Haven Union High, Kristine Evarts, Otter Valley Union High School, Kris Bascue, Creative Workforce Solutions

1. **1:30- 1:40 Icebreaker** - "If we suddenly were released to go about our lives without the concern for our health safety, where would you go? What is the first thing you would do?"
2. **1:40-2:00 Welcome - Kathi**
  - a. Request for sharing any new phone contact information and how best to contact you, days you work. Please enter contact information into the chat box and Kathi will create a directory to share with all of Core Team. All the email addresses are on the Alias.
3. **2:00-2:15 Polling about current youth engagement with agencies this spring/summer**

**RMH** - Michael states they are figuring out how to best provide supports, assisting those who have graduated with placements and others unemployed or furloughed. It's been a process; several have returned to work. Working one on one, minimizing exposure, questionnaire needs to be completed, trainings have been provided to assist with the process.

**VABIR** Samantha shared there are new Work Based Learning guidelines, limited as to what can be offered in person, Job Coach is assisting nonstudents, virtual pre-employment skill building is being provided. Per Will, guidance is the same as it's been recently, able to support consumers without health issues that may be at high risk. VR manager's approval is needed for placements, there are a number of check boxes, trying to do as much virtually if not can consider in person case by case.

**VR** Marianne explained that counselors are working with students using a variety of platforms including SKYPE, MS Teams and phone providing career assessments, Job Coach support on the job, an example of a student success story was shared; HD graduated from Fair Haven Union High School is working at Price Chopper and was assisted by our Job Coach.

**College Steps** Patty shared the program is providing virtual support, online course, mentors are hired, Google Meets will be used, 10:00 am. - 12:30 p.m. in person, COVID compliance, students need to pre-register for the in person supports. College Compass students are moving onto campus as freshman and will receive supports in person and virtually. There are limited in person internships, virtual informational interviews being set up, yoga sessions, community curriculum independent living skills.

WIOA/DOL Stacey can provide work-based learning experiences and visit on site with employers if necessary and virtual meetings. Fridays at 11:00 am there are workshops, call 786-5837 to register for workshops, a link will be sent out to join. The MS Teams app is used and will need to be downloaded in order to attend these workshops.

**Deb Robinson** is teaching Models of Assessment and Intervention in special education to preservice educators, a course they take before student teaching

**2:15-3:00** Schools - Inviting school personnel to share thoughts moving forward as to how students might access outside services/agencies during the school day within a new learning format? Case Managers and Special Service Directors share information and Discussion

- **Fair Haven Union High School** - School schedule will be "A/B" Day; A = Freshmen and Sophomore in person, Junior and Seniors online, next day "B" Juniors and Seniors in person, Freshmen and Sophomores online. There will be a shortened school day at 2:10 p.m. for deep cleaning and teacher prep. All IEP meetings will be virtual, no outside people; VR/VABIR may be able to come in person. (The school schedule is subject to change)
- **Otter Valley Union High School** - Remote learning, parents can opt to have students attend in person, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, survey is being sent for parent feedback, students will be in a pod with a para educator first, not with teachers, may change to Fair Haven's model if successful. Visitors are not allowed into the school; as things ease up may be able to have outside agencies such as VR visit monthly, this will depend on which students are attending in person.
  - Kathi informed the group that VR/VABIR is hoping to create virtual opportunities, trainings for taking assessments and other similar videos to engage students. Kathi also proposed meetings to introduce VR/VABIR team at the schools.
  - Kathi asked Patty if meeting with students and parents virtually has been effective; so far that has worked although they have not been able to provide on campus tours. Hoping to recruit more students for the compass program.
  - VR and College Steps collaboration is the Compass program, more abbreviated version of the two-year program, students have been accepted at Castleton University and need additional supports, daily open sessions for support, one on one meetings, can support students with dual enrollment.
  - Deb asked if virtual meetings would be more effective with parents for the supported decision-making evening groups; this will be explored further as it is a good option. The purpose of the Supported Decision-Making group is to inform students and parents about next steps and help with the process. Guest speakers included Disability Rights, Disability Lawyer and guardianship concerns.
  - Survey will be sent out to the core team asking how we can collaborate and provide seamless services.

#### 4. Adjourn

- a. Networking, collaboration if time allows for individuals



**Reminder- the next Core Team Meeting will be the Annual Statewide Core Team Event  
October 13**

*This will be a virtual event and an invitation will be sent out when details are settled.*