

Interagency Core Teams' Collaboration Event 2020

Speaker Information and Workshop Descriptions

Keynote:

Presenter: Monica Caserta Hutt

Monica Caserta Hutt has worked in the field of human services for the last twenty-five plus years. As a graduate of the University of Vermont and a licensed secondary education teacher, she began her career as the Executive Director of the Sara Holbrook Center in Burlington's Old North End. She began her work at the Howard Center, a Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Designated Agency in 1992, working there for thirteen years, first in the children's division and then as the Director for Children and Family Services in the arm of the organization serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

In 2005, Monica began her work with the State of Vermont and has held several positions in the Agency of Human Services, beginning in Field Services, moving to the Director of Operations for the Department for Children and Families and as the Director of Policy and Planning for the Agency. In 2015, Monica was appointed as the Commissioner for the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living and she continues in that role. Monica is a 2008 graduate of the Snelling Center for Government Vermont Leadership Institute and a 2011 graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School, Executives in Local and State Government program.

Keynote:

Presenter: Dr. Jacqueline Kelleher

Jacqueline Kelleher is a State Director of Special Education for Vermont. Her work at the Agency of Education is to direct and manage the vision and work of the Special Education Team and to advocate for the needs of Vermonters at the national level. She has previously served as an administrator, professor, teacher, evaluator, and advocate for children and youth with disabilities. Dr. Kelleher has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology and has been involved in teaching and research related to sensory learning, autism, learning strategies for students, alternative teaching/learning pedagogies, music and long-term retention of information, perspectives of educating children with autism, parent training/counseling as a related service, assessment, accommodations/modifications for post-secondary learners with disabilities, and components for developing an appropriate IEP. She has presented her research and experiences across the country and as far away as South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and the Netherlands. She previously served as a State Education Consultant for Connecticut Bureau of Special Education and oversaw the Connecticut General Supervision System and was its liaison for autism programming. Her favorite pastime is teaching students of all ages, translating the law into practice, and ensuring access, equity, and opportunity for students with disabilities. She believes there is empowerment with knowledge of educational law and systems and seeks every opportunity to promote and advocate for the rights under the IDEA, inclusion, and respect for diversity. Dr. Kelleher is also the parent of four children with disabilities/disorders and knows the challenges of raising individuals with complex needs, including autism and other health impairments.

Keynotes, WINTAC Work-Based Learning:

Presenters: Brenda Simmons and Christine Johnson

This presentation will provide an overview of the landscape of Transition/Work Based Learning across the country, and then resources that have been found most helpful during these unique times. There will also be time for Q&A with these technical assistance representatives from WINTAC (Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center)!

Brenda Simmons, M.S. has almost 35 years of professional experience including vocational evaluations and assessments, serving as a VR District Supervisor, leading and managing personnel at multiple district offices across the state, and directing a project for a statewide transition systems change grant. Brenda is currently a senior research assistant with the George Washington University, recently working on the WINTAC grant, providing technical assistance and training to State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and their partners on WIOA pre-employment transition services.

Christine Johnson, M.A. Ed., CRC, has over 25 years' experience in the VR counseling field. Her expertise comes from her work for Maryland State VR, her experience providing TA and continuing education for TACE as Program Manager, and most recently as Senior Research Associate at the George Washington University on the WINTAC Pre-ETS team. Christine worked extensively with state VR agencies in capacity building, performance standards, and quality assurance for providers; services and outcomes for minority and transition youth populations; and assisting agencies to increase capacity for continuous improvement of service delivery and achievement of employment outcomes.

Employer Roundtable Conversations by District:

Presenters: Employers throughout the state and Business Account Managers

Discuss needs and wants for collaboration, and what everyone is looking for in a quality Work Based Learning experience.

Guest Speaker, Engagement with Youth During Virtual Times:

Presenter: Adene Karhan

Engagement with youth during these virtual times— sharing tips and Motivational Interviewing techniques.

Adene Karhan is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with over 7 years of experience in private practice psychotherapy and 25 years of work in the field of human services. She is currently working at Cornell University's Yang Tan Institute as a transition associated with a state special education project. Areas of professional interest include the impact of trauma on individuals, impact of early childhood attachment on lifelong relationships, and co-occurring mental health and developmental disability. Adene approaches most work from a family systems perspective, recognizing that individuals are highly relational and that interventions targeted at the entire family are most successful in bringing about lasting change.

Planning for Work-Based Learning Experiences Amid COVID-19 Concerns:

Presenters: Todd Gratton (VABIR), Wendy Callaert (VABIR) and Opal Jones (VABIR)

This Workshop is going to focus on sharing ideas and activities for use across the state. The BAM's and EC's have been working on setting up and running non-traditional and virtual activities since the start of the lockdown. These can be adapted for use in

schools and for students. We will also be facilitating a discussion of other activities that look promising.

Career Assessments – What are these? What is most effective and how do we collaborate on implementation?:

Presenters: Rich Tulikangas (VR) and Taya Tarr (DBVI)

This session will discuss the development of the Career Counseling & Assessment Charter work at VocRehab and VABIR that lead to identifying and rolling out training related to 9 preferred career assessment tools and sites. The workshop will include a discussion by a local team of Career Counseling & Assessment Specialists of their activities and challenges with building assessments into core practice for local counselors and employment specialists, and how the assessments support work-based learning. Issues related to accessibility of the assessments, particularly for blind and visually impaired individuals, will also be discussed.

Progressive Education Opportunities: Supporting All Youth to Explore Post-Secondary Education and Training Opportunities:

Presenters: Natalie Searle (CCV), Angie Alback (CCV), Darcy Oakes (CCV), Matt Mitchell (VSAC), Patricia Turner (VSAC), Brian Guy (VR)

This session will overview the variety of ways that CCV, VSAC and VR support all youth as they explore and participate in progressive education and employment training opportunities. Topics will include the pathway of Introduction to College and Careers, Dual Enrollment, Early College, and employment training opportunities. Presenters will address how VSAC, VR and CCV's Accessibility Services support students as

they begin and progress through both exploration and participate along their progressive education pathway.

Supporting All Youth with Disabilities in Work-Based Learning Opportunities:

Presenters: Jesse Suter (CDCI), Bryan Dague (CDCI/Think College), Jessalyn Gustin (UVS), Michelle Paya (CCS)

This workshop will exhibit ways in which educators, service providers and families can implement successful planning steps and support strategies to gain work-based experiences and competitive employment for youth considered unemployable due to their significant barriers and challenges.

Labor Market Presentation, Considering Pandemic Impact:

Presenter: Kevin Stapleton (DOL)

In this workshop Kevin will provide an overview of the Vermont economy and introduce labor market information data. He will focus on how labor market information can be used to help young people find work and build meaningful careers. Participants will learn how to use this information to guide students towards skill development in a work-based learning environment.

Youth Voice! Presentation

Presenter/Panelists: Martha Frank (VFN) and members of the Youth Advocacy Council

Youth Voice! Hear the Inspiring Stories from Young Adults Who Turned their Dreams into Reality. 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. Topics range from experiences on the Youth Advisory Council, Work based learning, IEP transition planning, postsecondary paths, and the world of employment.

Come hear from youth who faced challenges head on, raised aspirations and succeeded.

Assistive Technology for Transition-Aged Youth:

Presenters: Laurie Cook (VR) and Ben Wimett (VABIR)

In this general overview of Assistive Technology (AT) for Transition-Aged Youth, we will review a variety of common and trending Assistive Technology resources available for students and adults for both school and work settings. AT solutions for a myriad of challenges will be discussed and demonstrated. We will allow time for questions and answers at the end of the session.

Post-Secondary Transition Planning

Presenter: John Spinney (AOE)

This training will cover the new suite of transition planning tools created for Vermont special educators including the new Vermont IEP transition plan. Updates and resources related to providing transition services in a remote environment will also be covered.

Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Options for Students and Youth

Presenters: Tracy Verge (DOL), Nat Piper (VR), Rich Tulikangas (VR)

This session will explore existing and emerging opportunities for Vermont youth to engage in 'Earn & Learn' opportunities that includes current Pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship Programs, as well as other occupationally specific paid training options such as ReSource's Construction 101 program, the Harbor Freight Fellows apprenticeships, and others. Discussion will focus on working toward building a coordinated system of youth apprenticeship in Vermont.

Acronym List

AOE – Agency of Education

CCS – Champlain Community Services

CCV – Community College of Vermont

CDCI – Center on Disability and Community Inclusion

DBVI – Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired

DOL – Department of Labor

UVS – Upper Valley Services

VABIR – Vermont Association of Business Industry and Rehabilitation

VFN – Vermont Family Network

VR – Vocational Rehabilitation

VSAC – Vermont Student Assistance Corporation

WINTAC – Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center