

## Barre November Core Team Notes

### Introductions

- Icebreaker: Shout out one local business you have enjoyed working with or being a customer of.
  - List of local businesses we shared
    - Buddy's Famous Burgers, Montpelier – great at employing high school youth and delicious milkshakes
    - Home Grown Scales, South Barre – participated in a work experience that turned into a paid experience, the community enjoys the specialty store.
    - Bear Pond Books, Montpelier – supports community of readers and authors.
    - Ivy Computer, Waterbury – great for career exploration for young people who are interested in application development.
    - Central Vermont Human Society – great connection with Spaulding for making dog treats and ropes.
    - Vermont Granite Museum, Barre – Scott (director) has been accepting and accommodating to young people of all abilities and needs to gain experience.
    - Kellogg Hubbard Library, Montpelier – has been supportive of U32 students with gaining skills and volunteering, also open to work experiences.
    - Special Service Transports – provide much needed services for rides for people with disabilities
    - Local libraries!
    - Hannaford Supermarket and Bliss Village Store, Bradford – great support with progressive employment.

### Team member spotlight- Heather Houle, Washington County Mental Health Services, JOBS Case Manager

1. Share a brief overview of what your organization does.

Heather provides case management and transitional services for individuals 16 – 22 who experience mental health barriers and other barriers related to transition and employment. She partners with VocRehab, VDOL, and other community services for ongoing supports.

2. Provide a snapshot of eligibility and the intake/referral process

The referrals can be informal and Heather can be contacted directly for a conversation. It's best to share with her how the JOBS program could be a good fit for an individual. Common referral sources include VDOL, VR, Corrections, diversion, and schools.

3. What is your favorite service to provide?

Heather enjoys being in the community with clients, helping them connect to their doctor's or other providers, and seeing the relief after they achieve goals related to transitional goals.

4. Contact information:

Heather Houle, JOBS Program Supports [Heather.Houle@wcmhs.org](mailto:Heather.Houle@wcmhs.org) 802-522-6799

Disability Etiquette- Dr. Sefakor Kombau-Pomeyie, Vermont Center for Independent Living, Independent Living Coordinator

- 25% of people experience disabilities. Some assumptions around disability include: every disability is the same; people with disabilities can't be independent; the disability is always visible; people with disabilities want special treatment; and they always want help.
- Equal treatment is the goal for those who experience disabilities. This means engaging in civil rights and adhering accommodations for equal and equitable access.
- Dr. Kombau-Pomeyie covered specific considerations for communicating with the Deaf community, people who are blind, those who experience mental health diagnoses, people who use mobility devices, and people who use support animals.
- Person First language puts the *person* before their disability. For example, "people who use wheelchair" vs "wheelchair bound".
- Don't assume anything! Ask.
- Questions:
  - o Dr. Kombau-Pomeyie reported that people who use wheelchairs should not be carried. There was a question about the specifics around this and Sefakor clarified that this should be a case by case basis but – most importantly – allow the individual to request being supported into the building, car, bus, etc.