

Present: Diane T, Kara R, Meg B, Kim L, Brya E, Matt M, Ali CL, Tara H, Wendy C, Kate A, Allison B, Ben W, Dawn C, Sephakor Komabu-Pome, Carol S. 2:40pm

Kara: Please register for the Virtual Interagency Core Team Employment Summit: 2/13/2023 9am-12pm. An email was sent with a registration QR code.

We need more info on collaboration for the May 18th Job Fest. Employers will be grouped by age requirements for required jobs offered: 16 and under, 17 and above.

Matt Maroney: Employment Program Director, UCS DS Services:

Program focuses on: Skill building, personal hygiene and grooming, resume writing, job task performance. Matt states his program's focus is transition to adulthood, job support with the primary goal of creating as much independence as possible on a case by case basis.

UCS Employment serves all of Bennington County.

Key Points: Challenges:

Schools graduating many students w/jobs so support through UCS is a challenge to hire enough job coaches. Matt would like to see flexibility with employers in days/hours, early collaboration with families and schools, at least 3-4 months prior to graduation. Matt finds families have difficulty shifting from a school mindset to a young adult mind set where expectations are very different.

Students with multiple jobs? Matt states natural support through employers works well. Family members can provide respite as well as job support through family self management of funding.

Matt's email: mmaroney@ucsvt.org

Brya Emery Dir. of Admissions and Enrollment, College Steps: admissions@collegesteps.org

Brya explained the fundamental difference between the College Compass and College Steps programs: COMPASS provides less academic and social support, designed primarily for students with a lower support level. STEPS provides more comprehensive direct student support for campus navigation and academic support. STEPS age range 18-26, COMPASS, post HS grads. Both programs are designed to create as much student independence as possible. Steps provides a paid student mentor who will help students immerse themselves into campus activities and help initiate a new network of peers. Each program provides instruction to include executive functioning, communication skills, life skills, time management, social skills. Priority acceptance to the program is given to returning students. New students should apply by March.

Brya's office can help students/ families:

Navigate the application/admissions/interview process Introduce program through parent/student virtual panels.

Students will create a College Education Plan (CEP) and create a daily schedule. Employment based experiences are available. Students will meet with Program Counselor 1x a week, meet with support team 1x a month.

Brya stated CCV's northern campuses are working out details to create a STEPS program, hybrid instruction options(on line and in person) will be available.
Several Core members present give complimentary high marks to COLLEGE STEPS.

Next Meeting: March 13th, 2:30-3:30.