

Core Team November 28, 2023

Present:

Brandy Reynolds, Transition Counselor, HireAbility
Jackie Trepanier, Ed Advisor, Vermont Adult Learning
Kevin Drury, Special Ed Coordinator, BUHS and BAMS
Caroline Trevarrow, Career Pathways Navigator, HireAbility
Bonnie Haug, Transition Counselor, HireAbility
Matt Attesi, LEAP Program, Brattleboro Housing Partnerships
Sefakor Komabu-Pomeyie, Vermont Center for Independent Living
Gene Woodcock, Job Corps
Josh Hallock, Youth Employment Specialist, VABIR/HireAbility
Esther Behling, Youth Employment Specialist, VABIR/HireAbility
Matt Meserve, Job Center Specialist, DOL
Jessica Ostrander, HCRS
Teri-Anne Walker, JOBS Program Manager, HireAbility
Billie Wells, HCRS
Erica Korb, JOBS Case Manager, HCRS
Cody Miller, Coordinator of Student Advising, CCV
Sarah Wood, Family Stabilization Case Manager, Youth Services
Brya Emery, College Steps

Announcements

We welcomed Kevin Drury to the team, he recently joined BUHS/BAMS as the Special Education Coordinator.

Occasionally age waivers are possible for Job Corps.

Through the Brattleboro Housing LEAP program, individuals 18-55 earn rent credit when they participate in the program.

Dylan Devlin will soon be the new Developmental Services Employment manager for HCRS.

Core Team Basics

Core Team has multiple purposes and options: Guest Speakers, Discussion, Brainstorming, as well as Case Sharing/Discussion/Troubleshooting. Core Team is a confidential group where we can collaborate and problem solve on a larger scale, and where we can bring tough cases as well as successes.

Every regional HireAbility office has a Core Team chaired by the two Transition (Youth) Counselors.

Core Team has 8 meetings a year, plus two state-wide Core Team meetings, one in-person in October at Killington Grand, and one virtual in February.

Question about JOBS

How do youth qualify for JOBS while they are still in school?

Must have a mental health diagnosis

AND be 6 months from graduation OR clear risk of dropping out OR extremely lacking in credits required for graduation

JOBS (continued)

Out of school youth:

Must have a mental health diagnosis

AND at least two of the following: risk of homelessness, history of violence or school suspension, parental or self involvement in corrections, DCF custody, pregnant, economic threshold

The mental health diagnosis can be anxiety, depression, or other diagnosis.

Case Sharing

Bonnie works with a young person who is waiting to be served by JOBS; student lives in Stamford, VT but is served by Windham County HireAbility. Erica shared that Stamford is in the Bennington JOBS area, and that office is in flux, but there is a case manager there currently. Bonnie got her question answered. Go Core Team!

Kevin shared that he is aware of two 12th grade students, a couple, one is pregnant; they are not attending school. Sarah shared that she is aware of these students, and they are being served by Youth Services, and they are not interested in JOBS. Kevin was able to find out these two youth were on someone's radar. Kevin hopes to connect with Sarah outside of Core Team to problem solve further around this case. Kudos again to Core Team.

Some discussion of students who have had an IEP in the past at another school but come to new school with no paperwork. Several people have noticed students possibly losing their IEP before changing schools, and this has resulted in students not having access to needed services.

Sefakor shared an email she received from a family asking for information about scholarships for Mansfield Hall. Brya shared that often programs have access to funds, so in this case it was recommended that the family contact Mansfield Hall directly to ask about funding. She also let us know that Mansfield Hall people were instrumental in developing the College Steps program. Brandy referred Sefakor to Ran Wang of VSAC and recommended a referral to HireAbility. Brya has a list of scholarships that families have applied for and received in the past.

Gene had Success Stories! Everyone loves to hear these. He shared about four students who were all referred to Job Corps from someone who is part of the Core Team. These students have made great progress at Job Corps or have settled in positively. One student finished the welding program and is 85% done with the Mechanical Engineering program and may be able to work at Amtrack, another finished high school at Job Corps, and others have entered the culinary and the medical program.

The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for December 26, 2023, 3:30-4:40.