

CORE MEETING | MINUTES

Type of meeting Community Partners, Collaboration, and Networking

Facilitator Lauren Dillon, VR Transition Counselor II

Note Taker Ajalon Emerson, VABIR YES

Presenters: Chris Kennedy- College Steps
Mark Prior- Succeed Program

In-Person Attendance:
name, title/agency

Lauren Dillon-HireAbility

Belinda Webster-NEKCA

Jennifer Charles-VABIR

Terri Boe- case manager for BARJ

Larissa Hammond- NECKA



Virtual Attendance:
name/title/agency

Chris Kennedy- College Steps Director of Students

Mark Prior- Succeed Program Senior Manager Howard Center

Ajalon Emerson-VABIR

Tara Shatney-HireAbility

Joseph Kulakowski-Bridge program/NKHS

Chelsea Percy-Bridge program/NKHS

Diane Tutko – NCUHS Assistant Special Services Director

Jennifer Gibney- NDO

Chris Mitchell- AHS Field Director

Vickie Florence- NKHS Bridge Team Lead

Carmen Sauer- NKHS IDDS Supportive Employment

Stacey Gosselin- EC VABIR

Kristie Ansley- NDO

Jaime Brown- P2P Transition Coordinator

Kris Kouwenhoven – HA JOBS

TOPIC

- **SUCCEED PROGRAM**- Presenter Mark Prior-contact info- email mprior@howardcenter.org- 802-488-6580 (See Attachment too)
 - [The SUCCEED Program - Howard Center](#)
 - Located in the Howard center, support post-secondary education.
 - 4 basic components- Career development- Campus life- Residential program- (independent living/student housing)-education (post-secondary education)
 - 18 to 25 ages
 - Located in downtown Burlington
 - 2 main houses attached are 2 apartments each for a total of 4 independent apartments.
 - Apartments help with independence
 - All residents take college level classes- UVM, CCV- can be interest-based classes, goal is college setting.
 - How to reach them- Reach out to presenter (contact info above).
 - Application times for following fall- October to March, then interviews take place and by April they have selected participants. Move in date by August.
 - Plenty of meet and greet opportunities between April and Aug
 - Requirements-Eligibility with DS, Medicaid Waiver And need to have graduated high school.
 - Openings vary due to graduation rates etc.
 - Typically the program supports students for 2 to 3 years, between shared living and independent living apartment.
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- **COLLEGE STEPS**- Presenter- Chris Kennedy-contact [info- Chris@collegesteps.org](mailto:info-Chris@collegesteps.org)- 802-557-8200
 - College Steps VT page <https://www.collegesteps.org/vermont>
 - Student centered support utilizing peer mentoring
 - Can be as little as 1 class a semester
 - Dual enrollment acceptable HS/College
 - Peer mentors available within the class and with homework.
 - Modified grades, assignments and accommodations
 - Focus on social skills, pre-employment skills, independent living skills
 - Students are taking college classes
 - Hold groups for adult skills
 - **THINK COLLEGE** along the same program but out of UVM, [About Think College VT | College of Education and Social Services | The University of Vermont](#)
 - Eligibility = DS eligible
 - Transportation help
 - Usually 2 days on campus
 - Works with ages 16 to 27
 - **COMPASS PROGRAM**- with peer supports/Partnership with HireAbility/ students who are not DS eligible but need support. (4 to 10 hrs)
 - College Compass VT page <https://www.collegesteps.org/college-compass-vt>

THANK YOU TO THIS MONTH'S PRESENTERS!

Keep an eye out for the dates of the next Orleans/Essex County Core Transition Team meeting!
If there are any questions or suggestions for topics, please contact Lauren!

Thank you,

Lauren Dillon, VR Transition Counselor II

HireAbility Vermont (formerly VocRehab)

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