

Transition to Adulthood Notes from Winter CORE Team Event – March 10th, 2025: Group 1

Facilitator: Krista Siringo, VFN

- Are there any resources that you'd like to share with others:
 - CSHN has Care Consultants that provide guidance around things like – Medicaid contacts, transportation options, VFN fund contacts, transition to adulthood resources for the area, “what is the next step?”, and help for medical practices and nurse coordinators. They are a resource for parents, educators, and health providers to find resources. See link in chat.
 - VSAC – has college pathways events happening now. See link in chat.
 - Using assessment tools works well to help high schoolers figure out what direction they want to go.
 - O'Net
 - CDM Career Decision Making
 - Career One Stop
 - TSS Transferable Skill Scale
 - SDS Self-Directed Research
 - Standard SDS
 - VFN's annual Family Conference is on April 8th at the Davis Center. It is for families, professionals and youth. See link in chat.
 - Advance Vermont: see link in chat.
- What's a problem or challenge you are having now that you'd like the group to discuss.
 - Not being invited to meetings by schools/parents. Not being aware of students who have disabilities.
 - Try to get seniors to include others on their transition teams at meetings.
 - Set up something at parent/teacher conference nights.
 - Sit in on IEP meetings to better connect with parents.
 - This is one of the purposes of the 5-year Pathways to Partnership grant. They currently work with CVU, Green Mt and Bellows Falls. Planning to add 21 more schools in 2025. See Liz Perreault contact in the chat.
 - Schools that hold student-led conferences offer another place to reach parents directly. Schools usually welcome organizations setting up info tables at these events.
 - High schools have open houses and this is a great way to talk with parents at the beginning of the year. Can bring binders/info to share.
 - Reach out to school counselors and ask about the best ways to connect with kids and families.

- Include and connect with local mental health agencies as they also support kids. Some staff specifically support transition-aged kids. They function like an extended family to help navigate and bridge systems.
 - Reach out to high schools to let them know about HireAbility, VABIR, and other services and contacts.
- There is a hole for graduating teens in DCF custody. Very challenging.
- Uncertainty with Medicaid.
 - Many staff concerns.
 - There are financial aid concerns from students.

Transition to Adulthood Notes from Winter CORE Team Event – March 10th, 2025: Group 2

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- Are there any resources that you'd like to share with others:
 - VFN Family Conference on April 8th at the Davis Center. Directed to families, professionals and youth. See link in chat.
 - VFN has a Graduation Readiness Checklist. You can check out the checklist in the Transition Toolkit on the link in the chat. There is also a Graduation Readiness Checklist workshop with Jon Spinney. See link in the chat.

- What's a problem or challenge you are having now that you'd like the group to discuss.
 - Homelessness both before and after age 18. Seem to be seeing an increase. One county does not have any under 18 housing resources. They can't find a job when basic needs are not being met. Many families kick 18-year-olds out. There are also instance of youth who were adopted and then no "kicked out" at age 18.
 - Looking into a "host home" program in southern VT. Very small.
 - Job Corps is an option. They have dormitories with housing for up to 2 years. Participants are fed, housed and employed. Job Corps services are for ages 16-24, and there are age waivers for those with disabilities. See more contact info in chat.
 - Can we look into why people who are adopted are being kicked out of their homes at 18?
 - Can they access shared living providers funded by Medicaid?
 - We each need to bring teams together to work out a transition plan for these youth. Teams need to be accountable.

- Foster care offers extended supports after turning 18 for various reasons, such as a disability. They can get stipends for living expenses. It may also apply to those who were adopted. Extended agreements are available for youth 18-23 who were in DCF custody when they were 16 years old or older. This includes youth who were adopted at ages 16 or older. See attachment in chat.
- Be sure to request housing accommodations for students with disabilities who are heading to college. Things like: needing a single room; strobe lights for fire alarms; closeness to bathrooms, etc. Remember to ask early.
 - Guidance counselors may be less familiar with the need to request these things.
- IEP Case Managers may not be aware of the core team supporting youth. Ask students to include the core team in IEP meetings. Transition planning should be part of IEPs, but this is not always as well-coordinated as it could be. Pathways to Partnership may help with this. See notes from the first group session and Liz Perreault contact info.
- How to encourage young people to advocate for themselves. Many drop out of college because they don't know how to self-advocate.
 - Many students are not even at their IEP meetings. Parents may be used to managing everything, which doesn't give youth a chance to develop these skills.
 - P-to-P grant. Tool to work with youth. Summary of performance is a great tool.
 - Green Mountain Self-Advocates: see link in chat.