

Partnerships to Employment Conference April 24, 2007

School to Career / Transition Track

Person Centered Planning (MAP) Driving the IEP How do we empower students to be more assertive in their own program planning? Utilizing MAPs (Making Action Plans) leads to a vision of what students hope and dream for, as well as strategies and ideas to realize those dreams. The information helps to generate IEP goals that are based on the student's dreams, strengths and needs. Originally developed by Marsha Forest, the Personal Futures Planning model was adopted by West Warwick High School. It has been modified for use with secondary special needs students in a traditional high school, involving them in developing their own IEP/transition plans.

Helene Arbor, *West Warwick High School*
9:30 - 10:30 AM

Building Community Connections: Networking for Transition-Aged Youth This seminar offers consumers and professionals an overview of innovative and practical strategies for transition-aged youth, based on networking, one of the most effective job search practices. The strategies are from comprehensive curriculum, in place in a school setting and soon to be published. The session will review main topics, present sample exercises, and provide a general overview of facilitating career exploration and empowering students to look for opportunities within their own networks.

Allison Fleming, *Institute for Community Inclusion / UMASS*
10:30—11:30 AM

Legal Rights and Services: Transitioning from High School to Work or College This session will provide information on legal rights and services for students as they transition from high school to work, or to postsecondary education. We will begin by discussing decision-making as part of the IEP process, and how to promote decision-making capacity, including preserving parental involvement, after students are age 18. We will also examine guardianship and its alternatives, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act, state law and the differences between them. We will discuss how to request accommodations for disability-related needs and such transition services as vocational rehabilitation and benefits planning.

Catherine Sansonetti, Esq., **Anne Mulready, Esq.**, **Alexandra LaPlant**, *RI Disability Law Center*
1:45 - 2:45 PM

Disability Disclosure and the ADA: When, Where, How and Why This session will focus on students who are transitioning from high school or college into the world of work, and on the professionals who support them. Kendra Duckworth, in her overview of JAN's services, will offer practical advice to job seekers with disabilities about the ADA, the application/interview process, disclosure, and how to request an accommodation. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and share their experiences.

Kendra Duckworth, *Job Accommodation Network*
3:00 - 4:00 PM