DISTRICT TRANSITION TEAMS:
CREATING COLLABORATIVE TEAMS TO SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

State Support Team
Region 9’s Journey
Stark, Wayne & Holmes Counties

Rachel McMahan Queen, Kent State University
Terryl Swejk, State Support Team Region 9

WHERE ARE TODAY’S RESOURCES?

1. www.livebinders.com
2. Search: SST9
4. Link: http://www.livebinders.com/edit/index/2016442
WHO ARE WE?

Rachel McMahan Queen, PhD
Outreach Director
Center for Innovations in Transition
330-672-0724
rmcmahan@kent.edu
http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/centers/cite

Terryl Swejk, M.Ed.
Consultant
State Support Team Region 9
330-492-8136
terryl.swejk@email.sparcc.org
www.sst9.org

State Support Team

STATE SUPPORT TEAM, REGION 9
WWW.SST9.ORG

- One of 16 regions in Ohio (State System of Support)
- Provides support to all school districts, families and community agencies in Holmes, Stark and Wayne Counties in such areas as:
  - Special Education Compliance (Technical Assistance)
  - School Improvement (Ohio Improvement Process)
  - Early Learning and School Readiness
  - Family Engagement
Center for Innovation in Transition and Employment (CITE)
Kent State University - College of Education, Health, and Human Services - School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences

CITE Mission:
To Support Quality Lives for People with Disabilities through

- Preparing Transition Leaders
- Translating Research into Practice
- Promoting Effective Policies and Programs

Center Funding Includes:
Personnel Preparation Grants
Model Demonstration Grants
State Research and Technical Assistance Grants

LET’S MEET EACH OTHER

1. www.socrative.com
2. Student log in
3. Room: 664917

There is a link in the livebinder!
WHY FOCUS ON TRANSITION?

[Image showing books on future planning, employment, self-advocacy, independent living, and a question mark]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LCggmsCXk4

NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL TRANSITION STUDY
(NOVEMBER 2011)

Young adults with disabilities:

✓ Postsecondary completion rates of students with disabilities were lower than those of similar-aged students in the general population

(41 percent vs. 52 percent)

✓ earned an average of $1.00 less per hour

✓ less likely to live independently

(45 percent vs. 59 percent)
OHIO LONGITUDINAL TRANSITION STUDY  
(REGION 9 OLTS, 2015)

- 85% of students planned to be employed for 20 or more hours after graduation  
  → 49% employed after 1 year, many not in field they had anticipated

- 68% planned to be attending a postsecondary education program  
  → 31% actually enrolled

- 42% of students planned on independent living arrangements  
  → 17% met this goal

WHY FOCUS ON TRANSITION?

Federal & State Requirements: Indicators 1, 2, 13, 14

- Ohio Graduation Requirements

- Ohio Employment First

- Ohio Longitudinal Transition Study
HERE’S WHAT WE KNOW

Rigorous Academic Preparation
Greater Success in College

Paid Work Experience
Getting and Keeping a Job

Having a Plan for the Future

Post-School Success!

Here’s What We Also Know

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION = IMPROVED POST SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Post School Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

Collaborative Supports

R9 Transition Council

Community Level Team

IEP Team

School Level Team

School Transition Teams
SCHOOLS NEEDED HELP!

What barriers have your schools faced?

- Budget Cuts
- Ohio's Learning Standards
- Limited Community Connections

TRANSITION TEAMS WERE CREATED

Rachel McMahan Queen
Stacia Kaschak
Terryl Swejk

Community Collaborators
- Developmental Disabilities
- OOD (RSC/BVR)
- Mental Health
- Employers

Summer 2013

Was the key support for the work!
DESCRIPTION, DESIGN & SCHEDULE

Series Description

Transition planning is the process that supports "preparing children for further education, employment and independent living" (IDEA, 2004). This training series will assist district teams in identifying evidenced based transition practices and available resources to design and implement meaningful transition and success plans for students. The purpose is for teams to collaborate in developing a transition framework that supports the district Career Advising Policy. The goal is systematic implementation of successful transition practices that support positive postsecondary outcomes for ALL students.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This series is for districts NEW to the transition framework development process. To ensure a focused approach, teams must consist of a minimum of four members, including an administrator, Middle and High School representation is strongly encouraged.

Required secondary-level team members: District Administrator (team choice) General Education Teacher Intervention Specialist School Counselor *District Career Connections person (if this position applies in your district)

Additional team members recommendations:
  Parent
  Community Partner - (Adult Services, Mental Health, Employment, etc.)
  Related Service Staff
  School Psychologist
  Transition Support Staff Career Tech Teacher
  Elementary Teacher
  Teacher Leaders from Other Disciplines

All team members must commit to attending the entire training series.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training Series Dates
Day 1: September 9, 2015
Day 2: November 5, 2015
Optional Date: December 2, 2015

Site Visit Requirement
Teams will select a January 2016 site visit date.

COHORT 1 PARTICIPANTS
2013-2014

8 District Teams

Stark County:
Alliance City Schools; Lake Local Schools; North Canton City Schools; Perry Local Schools; Stark Bd of DD – RS Southgate School; Tuslaw Local Schools

Wayne County:
Wooster City Schools

Holmes County:
West Holmes Local Schools
SCHOOL TEAM MEMBERS

Required:
- Administrator
- HS Intervention Specialist
- HS General Ed Teacher
- School Counselor

Additional Team Members:
- HS Intervention Specialists
- General Ed Teacher*
- School Counselor*
- Career Tech Teachers
- Middle School Teachers (GE & IS)
- SLP (1)
- School Psychologists (4)
- Transition Coordinator
- Community Ed Specialist

Average Team: 6 members

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER TEAM MEMBERS

YEAR 1

- OOD/BVR Counselors
  - 1 per team
- Board of Developmental Disabilities
  - 1 SSA/Community Employment Specialist from Wayne
- Career Center JTC/VOSE
  - 2 from RG Drage Career Center; 2 from Wayne County CC
- Parent Mentors/Parent Consultants
  - 1 from Tri-County ESC; 1 from Stark ESC
YEAR 1 WORK: SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

- CIRCLES' TEAMS
- Transition Planning
- Team Assessment Data

YEAR 1 WORK: DECEMBER TO MAY

- Goal Development
- Course of Study Framework
- Student Focused Planning
- AATA Framework
YEAR 1 WORK: MAY TO SEPTEMBER

COMMON THEMES: WHAT WAS WORKING!

- Commitment to adding middle school staff, with some teams also considering elementary.
- Developing courses to provide career exploration, employability skills and life skills at middle school, high school and 18+ levels.
- Incorporating transition team work into Ohio Improvement Process/Strategic plans.
- Backwards planning.
- Increasing student involvement in the IEP process.
COMMON THEMES:
WHERE WERE TEAMS HEADED?

- Creating transition planning websites
- Purposeful focus on self-advocacy skill development
- Systemic planning
- Developing philosophy of “OUR” students
- Involve all general ed teachers
- PD for all staff
- Desire to incorporate all grade levels
- Using transition planning to CLOSE THE GAP
- Less on compliance, more on OUTCOMES

YEAR TWO PARTICIPANTS
2014-2015

**Cohort 1 Teams (7)**
- Stark County:
  Alliance City Schools; North Canton City Schools; Perry Local Schools; Stark Bd of DD – RS Southgate School; Tuslaw Local Schools
- Wayne County:
  Wooster City Schools
- Holmes County:
  West Holmes Local Schools

**Cohort 2 Teams (8)**
- Stark County:
  Canton Local Schools; Jackson Local Schools; Louisville City Schools; Marlinton Local Schools; Stark DD SSAs; Stark County ESC Program; CARE Teams
- Wayne County:
  Dalton Local Schools
YEAR THREE PARTICIPANTS
2015-2016

Cohort 1 Teams (5)
- Stark County:
  - Alliance City Schools;
  - North Canton City Schools;
  - Perry Local Schools;
  - Stark Bd of DD – RS Southgate School;
- Holmes County:
  - West Holmes Local Schools

Cohort 2 Teams (5)
- Stark County:
  - Jackson Local Schools;
  - Marlington Local Schools;
  - Stark County ESC Program; Stark DD SSAs;
- Wayne County:
  - Dalton Local Schools

Cohort 3 Teams (2)
- Ashland County:
  - Ashland City Schools
- Stark County:
  - Massillon City Schools

CURRENT COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

R.G. DRAGE CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER

Holmes County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

EMPLOYMENT FIRST
TARGETS FOR COHORT 2 & 3 TEAMS

- Age Appropriate Transition Assessment
- Self-Advocacy/ Self-Determination Skill Development
- Student Led Teams

DISTRICT PLAN SUPPORTS

Toolkits:
- Self-Determination
- Self-Advocacy
- Transition Assessment
- Transition Services & Activities

CIRCLES Presentation: Jill Stefaniak
EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES & PREDICTORS


PLANNING FOR SUCCESSFUL STUDENT LED MEETINGS
Let’s See Outcomes!

North Canton City Schools
Perry Local Schools
Alliance City Schools
Jackson Local Schools
Dalton Local Schools
West Holmes Local Schools

Transition Team Resources

Transition Team Training Cohort 2
SST-9 Secondary Transition Planning Toolkit

Region 9 Transition Council
Group of 58 community organizations, including parents, committed to supporting positive postsecondary outcomes for ALL students

WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

“strength has many forms and WE are all able”

It’s an American IDEA by LeDerick Horne

AMAZED, INSPIRED, GRATEFUL...

THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lDua59vYURY