



**ISG-Young Adult Transition
6-12-06
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Theresa Armstrong; Katie Barclay; Rebecca Burch, Wes Collier, Jacquilyn Cox, Jay Dashefsky (via phone); Patricia Foley for Shannon Shiver; Linda Hamman; Reka Hamman; Jannette Maldonado; Beverly Plonski-Fuqua; Tim Travers; Ashleigh Turner

MEETING ITEM	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
Pre-Meeting Notes		The youth of the ISG Youth Transition (formerly the ISG Youth Council) Committee voted to change the name of the committee to the <i>ISG-Young Adult Transition Committee</i> .	*Youth vote to change the committee name to <i>Young Adult Transition Committee</i>

Welcome and Introductions	Jacquilyn Cox, ADHS-OCSHCN	<p>Dr. Cox welcomed all the participants to the June 12, 2006 Young Adult Transition Committee Meeting. The members took a moment to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Dr. Cox reviewed the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB) definition of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN). The Maternal and Child Health Bureau defines CYSHCN as those who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions that require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children and youth generally. Arizona uses this federal definition also. Additionally, it includes a child that needs more pharmaceutical, medical, and psychological services than a child of similar age, to address a medical condition that is expected to last 12 months or more.</p> <p><i>Children with special health care needs may require:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *prolonged or periodic inpatient or outpatient hospitalizations that are longer than the average stay or with greater frequency than the general population, *adaptations for daily living due to health related functional limitations, and / or; *a special level of expertise for treatment and/or services from multiple disciplines 	*Visit website www.azis.gov for all updated IS Grant documents and materials
Review the Minutes	All	The minutes were reviewed. Ms. Burch had questions as to the website address of the Utah Clicks program. That address is www.utahclicks.org	*Utah Clicks – www.utahclicks.org Utah State University – www.usu.edu *The 5-8-06 Young Adult Transition Meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted by the committee
Department of Education Transition Leadership Team	Theresa Armstrong, AZDOE	Gave a verbal presentation on the Arizona Department of Education's Transition Leadership Team and other initiatives (Youth Empowerment Initiative, AZ Leadership Team) that the Department of Education currently has that address the youth transition issue. It is the goal of these teams to involve more youth in all activities (across agencies and organizations).	*See Handout on grant RFP: "2007 IDEA Seamless Transition to Full Community Participation Grant"

		<p>The AZ Leadership Team has many state agencies on it. There are 4 areas of transition: capacity building, resistance change, youth empowerment, and data. This team is charged with doing similar work that this ISG Young Adult Transition Committee is doing, so collaboration can be a priority.</p>	<p>*Begin ISG Young Adult Transition Committee collaboration with AZ Leadership Team from AZ DOE. *Visit AZ Department of Education website at www.azdoe.gov (home page) www.ade.az.gov/ess/transitionservices/ JUNE 2006 – WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION</p>
<p>Department of Education Transition Leadership Team (con't)</p>		<p>The Youth Empowerment Initiative has two day workshops that focus in on youth empowerment and teaching self-advocacy skills. The sessions are youth-specific, parent-specific, and community-specific. Some topics are: what skills do we need to learn for self-advocacy, and entitlement programs vs. eligibility programs (i.e. asking for accommodations).</p> <p>Ms. Armstrong handed out resources and books used in the AZ DOE Youth Empowerment Initiative. She advised the Committee that AZDOE is planning to do a 2 day session earmarked for September 2006 and invited the ISG Young Adult Transition Committee members to participate. It would be a telephone interview for the youth, then the young adults would present with her at the conference (or through conference call). About 4 hours prior to the conference would have to be dedicated to preparation and work (if schedules are very busy). There are 2 sessions at the conference.</p>	<p>*How do you teach self-advocacy skills? *AZ DOE to do another 2 day session September 18 & 19, 2006 and ISG Young Adult Transition Committee invited to participate</p> <p>*Contact Theresa Armstrong at AZDOE for Youth Empowerment Initiative September 2006 conference information and involvement at Theresa.armstrong@azed.gov *Resources handed out are available on the web at www.eclg.com (Eaton Learning Centre) *Concept for ISG Young Adult Transition Conference: publish or make available “youth stories”</p>

	Group Discussion	<p>It was discussed that ValueOptions should get involved with the AZ Dept of Education Initiatives. A question came up as to who is the specific “go to person” in the AZ Department of Education for special needs transition issues. It was noted that the AZ DOE has many different entities they and others work with because of the districts’ (LEAs) and governing boards’ involvement. There are transition people designated in each <i>district</i> to help correlate activities for the young adults when they turn 18 and begin to drop off programs.</p> <p>Ms. Maldonado (ValueOptions) pointed out that it is also difficult to communicate with some of the educational entities (LEAs, schools, boards) because of categorizing of “home districts”. Transitioning youth may not have a “home district” at any given time in their life/transition. In some cases, for brief amounts of time, they are homeless.</p>	<p>*Who is the specific “go to” person in the AZ Dept. of Education for special needs transition issues? *Districts may or may not have “transition coordinator” designated at district level (LEAs). *Is there a listing (by district or by school) of the designated Transition Coordinator to address issues. Is it available at the AZDOE website? *Research No Child Left Behind, Title 1 (School Option) and Title X (McKinney-Vento Homeless Act) for regulations regarding school-choice option and transportation obligations for “homeless” students.</p>
Transition Teams	Katie Barclay, ASU and Linda Hamman, ADHS-OCSHCN	<p>Ms. Barclay gave background on the AZ Community Transition Teams and how they came to be. Each community set their own action plans and facilitate “transition fairs”. There was a question as to the composition of the teams. Katie advised the group that the teams consist of whoever the community can find that would be valuable to the team and has the time to commit. It is very diverse with many players from different affiliations and organizations.</p> <p>Ms. Hamman gave information on the Community Transition Leadership Teams that the OCSHCN and CDI-AZ Parent Leaders are involved with.</p>	<p>*Is there ISG networking w/ AZ Community Transition Teams and Community Transition Leadership Teams for youth involvement in the ISG Young Adult Transition Committee and planned conference? *Involve the OCSHCN Community Action Teams, Community Development Parent Leaders,</p>

	Group Discussion	There was discussion as to the dynamics of teams and team building. It was noted that the “system” isn’t working and it is not very youth-driven. It is driven by laws, organizations and agencies and to give a youth perception of what <i>they</i> view to be the problem can help better define the conference planning. We need to know, from the young adults (special needs and transitioning), what is wrong with the health care service delivery systems, transition coordination of state agencies (dropping off programs), and what does it take to make systems work better and work together better.	*ISG Transition Conference needs to be youth-driven and implemented from a youth-perception. *What is wrong with the system (in all aspects of special needs health care and transition)?
	Ashleigh Turner, Young Adult Consultant	I am SCI (spinal cord injury). When it came for me to transition out of high school, my vocational rehabilitation counselor, school counselors, and parents met together to address what I needed. It was hard for me to know what I needed because it was a recent injury to me. There are “experience gaps” (i.e periods of adjustments) whereby a recently injured person will not know what is out there or how to begin to address their life changing situation. Now, accommodations can be requested but the newly cognitively impaired people may not know where to begin to look. With myself, I could talk and tell them what I needed, etc. But others may not be able to communicate clearly. I did the same transition study out of ASU that Jay (Dashefsky) did. I learned advocacy from that group and it was helpful. Teaching the steps and the direction that can be taken, almost like a peer group or mentor.	*Eliminate “experience gaps” for Spinal Cord Injury youth *Need to know (quickly), what is out there and <i>what is available for them</i> *Degree of disability must be noted – can they talk & express needs *Learn/teach self advocacy skills *Getting your voice and knowing what to ask *Peer groups and mentors to help teach self-advocacy skills
Transition Teams (con’t)	Jay Dashefsky, SWI	It is not seamless.	*Make the transition seamless as possible
	Oly Cowles, ADJC	Pointed out that incarcerated youth don’t even receive that opportunity. The schools are told they have to take the incarcerated youth –back upon release. And truthfully, they will find any excuse or way NOT to take them back. And sometimes, we will go to court, under the law, to prove to the school what they must do. Then, the problem becomes, that the schools takes the incarcerated youth back, and finds every reason in the world to get rid of them.	*Schools are not readily accepting incarcerated youth back into their home district schools. Why? And if they do, they find reasons to get rid of the student (transfer, discipline, incorrigible etc)

	<p>Katie Barclay and Linda Hamman</p>	<p>Ms. Hamman informed the group that many of the youth are lost to the programs at 18 because the youth themselves just don't want to be involved in a program any longer.</p> <p>Ms. Barclay stated that AZ Community Transition Teams are based on a model out of Oregon Dept of Education. They pull in providers, families, school districts, students and bring them together to deciding where they are at, where do they want to go, and how do we improve outcomes for young adults who are leaving secondary education. Each year, they would come up with goals and objectives that they would try to meet. Each community was allowed to set what the objectives would be. Now, in Tucson and Flagstaff, their Community Team issue was to educate the people on what resources were out there and available. Residential care for young adults was another issue in Tucson and Flagstaff. Youth could not or did not wish to leave their home to come to Phoenix for healthcare and coordination.</p>	<p>*Some youth drop off programs at 18 by themselves because they don't want to be involved in a program any longer. However, do they really drop off because they are entering adulthood or do they drop off because no one has coordinated their transition? *AZ Community Transition Teams (ASU) issue was to educate people on what resources were already available *Residential care issue – not all young adults who are transitioning can travel to Phoenix for their healthcare *Some AZ Community Transition Teams are still funded and remain intact.</p>
	<p>Jannette Maldonado, ValueOptions</p>	<p>Mentioned that DES Vocational Rehabilitation just sent her a document last week that states that anyone who is involved in a DES program, now has a Voc Rehab coordinator that will sit in meetings and get more involved.</p>	<p>*DES Voc Rehab will have coordinators to help anyone in a DES program that is transitioning.</p>
	<p>Oly Cowles</p>	<p>State that youth have to get into the Vocational Rehabilitation program before their 18th birthday.</p>	

<p>Other Agenda Items</p>	<p>Group Feedback and Discussion</p>	<p><u>Points of concern to apply to Next Steps:</u> *Channel 8 or NPR (radio) can help. (i.e. young people interviewing grandparents, etc. or public service announcements) *Rural areas – getting the message out *Casey Foundation has recognized foster care problem *Vocational Rehabilitation does address transportation issues *What are the school responsibilities to special needs high schoolers *ABIL (AZ Bridge to Independent Living) is a good resource, bus training for free. *More IEP training for Special Education teachers *Accessible programs for substance abuse *Denial of employment based on cognitively impaired *Denial of acceptance into a school based on cognitively impaired *Are state agencies planning for transition out of programs *Listing of LEAs – go to www.azdoe.gov *Stigma of accepting incarcerated youth back into school *Housing *Quality of education in charter and alternate schools *ADJC-Voc Rehab connection STREAMLINE ELIGIBILITY FOR VOC REHAB *ValueOptions – direct support providers providing one-on-one settings in schools. Are providers doing? *Intake at community colleges – is IEP too restrictive?</p>	<p>*Channel 8 contact/radio NPR contact *Bus training & ABIL. ABIL contact – need one for the Young Adult Committee *Casey Foundation, need research materials *Foster care research to apply in conference *Voc Rehab & transportation – what can they do, how far? *What responsibilities do the schools have towards special needs. *What responsibilities do the school districts (LEAs) have towards special needs *Rural school research – can they offer special needs services and do they? What may be missing?</p>
<p>Assignments</p>	<p>Katie Barclay/Oly Cowles</p>	<p>Is it possible to create a simple survey to get some consensus and feedback from youth populations about their issues. Get information on the issues that young adults are concerned with.</p> <p>Mr. Cowles reminded the group that their work needs to be appreciated. We need to get the word out to them that this work is valuable and is appreciated by the agencies we all work with and for.</p>	<p>*Survey of special needs youth populations to gather data on the issues they feel are important and need addressing</p> <p>*Are varied state agency eligibility requirements for different programs hindering transition?</p>

	Rebecca Burch	How about a focus group facilitated by youth?	*Focus group to be considered (consensus of committee) -Benchmark off SWI Fast Track Program and Jay Dashefsky -But is the ISG Young Adult Transition Committee already a focus group by design??
	Jay Dashefsky	Focus group is good. We do it with the Fast Track Group. We work with high schools. We do talk about transition	
	Ashleigh Turner	There is a different theme each week with the program. It is video taped or audio-taped.	*Can Jay get us a video or audio tape of a SWI Fast Track session?
	Jay Dashefsky	We had Racing to the Future Meetings too, in 2003. There may be information on those meetings.	*Racing to the Future Meetings – can information be shared with the ISG Young Adult Transition Committee?
Possible Next Steps		<u>Structure of ISG Young Adult Committee</u> A) Chairperson/Facilitator (young adult) B) Participating young adults 2006 Schedule-need C) Invite parents of young adult participants? 1) ISG Parent Action Council involvement offer?	
		<u>Structure of Conference/Summit</u> Brainstorming and Review about Summit A) Should we pick one transition topic? (i.e. self-advocacy) B) What can SWI share with us? C) Give the conference a title?	
		<u>AZ Dept. of Education Youth Empowerment Initiative</u> -Theresa Armstrong A) September 18 & 19, 2006 Conference involvement?	

	<p>*Information on the ADHS eLearning System *Network with: -Clear Path Program – City of Phoenix -Mountain Park Health Center -ADJC –Adobe Mountain -AZDOE Young Adult Group -SWI Fast Track Program and 504 Plan -Family Involvement Center – Adam Armstrong -Motivational speakers -EVIT East Valley Institute of Technology -Maricopa Skill Centers -Maricopa County Special Transportation Services</p>	<p>*Invite any young adult youth program people to Committee. Affiliated with you personally or within your organization. *Provide WEB LINKS for research purposes</p> <p>*Bring incarcerated youth to the table somehow</p>
Next Meeting	July 20, 2006 1pm-3pm – ADHS Bldg., Room 345A	