

# PA Community on Transition 2009-10

*Collectively we are making a  
difference in the lives of youth,  
young adults and families  
across the state!*

# Building Pennsylvania's Community on Transition

- How can we collectively keep transition as a priority across all key stakeholder groups?
- Our focus since 1999 has been to build our community of practice around youth and young adults, with a vision to improve post-school outcomes.

# Successful Collaboration Does Not Happen by Accident

*Seven essential factors to consider for successful interagency collaborations:*

- Commitment
- Communication
- Strong Leadership from Key Decision Makers
- Understanding the Culture of Collaborating Agencies
- Providing Adequate Resources for Collaboration
- Minimizing Turf Issues
- Engaging in Serious Preplanning

Stakeholders' views of factors that impact successful interagency collaboration

*Exceptional Children*; Reston; Winter 2003; Lawrence J Johnson; Debbie Zorn; Brian Kai Yung Tam; Maggie LaMontagne; Susan A Johnson

# Pennsylvania Stakeholders

- Transition State Leadership Team
  - 4 Departments, 10 Agencies
  - Young Adults
  - Parent Organizations
  - Advocates
  - Higher Education
  - Employers.....
- Local Transition Coordinating Councils
- PA Youth Leadership Network
- Transition Leaders at all levels and roles across the Commonwealth, making a difference

# Developing a Shared Vision

- ***What are your goals for the transitioning youth you serve as a community?***
  - This is the launching pad for your dreams. When they are young adults, youth we serve will...and as a member of the transition community, I will...” individuals begin to paint a picture of future success and their roles in it. When built on inclusivity, shared responsibility and accountability, the fulfillment of that future becomes the dream of the transition community as a whole and of every member individually.

**2001 Center for Strategic Planning**  
**(<http://www.centerforstrategicplanning.org>)**

# PA Shared Vision & Common Ground

- All PA youth and young adults with disabilities will:
  - *successfully transition to the role of productive, participating adult citizens*
  - *be empowered to recognize their talents, strengths and voice*
  - *have equal access to resources that will promote full participation in the communities of their choice.*

# Pennsylvania's Transition Community...A Rich History

- Pennsylvania's transition community has had a rich history of dedication to assisting youth's successful transition from school to adult life and we appreciate your dedication and passion ....some of us have been working for many years...some of us are new...

# So What Constitutes Pennsylvania's Transition Community Today?

- A Rich History
- 1999 IDEA Memorandum of Understanding which has set the stage for our community's work
- A great synergy and sense of community in 2009
- Our Future Together through A Shared Agenda on Transition



# The Evolution of the PA Community on Transition

*Celebrating our Work Together*

# 1999 – 2000

- The Transformational Process
- Compliance to Commitment
- PA IDEA Memorandum of Understanding Regional Training
- Promoting Effective Outcomes: A Cross-Systems Approach Regional Training

# 2002

- PA Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services: Transition Pilot Projects
- Regional Cross-Systems Training: Spring and Fall 2002 Sessions
- First Annual 2002 PA Transition Conference
- PA Bureau of Special Education Mini-Grants
- PA Office of Mental Retardation: Employment Coalitions
- PA Office of Children, Youth & Families: Impacting Policy & Practice
- 2002 PA Disability Mentoring Day

# 2003

- 2nd Annual 2003 PA Transition Conference
- PA Signs on as First State of the National Community of Practice
- Regional Training: Building & Sustaining Local Transition Coordinating Councils & Teams
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Projects
- 2003 PA Disability Mentoring Day

# 2004

- Regional Capacity Building Sessions with Local Transition Councils & Teams
- Local Transition Coordinating Councils and Teams Development of Cross-System Portfolio Assessment Strategies: Regional Training, paired with Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Mini-Grants
- 3rd Annual 2004 PA Transition Conference
- 2004 PA Transition Communities of Practice: Reaching Our Outcomes Together Phase 4
- PA Dept. of Health: Cross-Systems Development of Transition Healthcare Checklist
- PA Youth Employment Expo

# 2005

- Spring 2005 Pennsylvania Longitudinal Transition Study Focus Groups
- PA Community on Transition: State Leadership Team Strategic Planning
- PA State to National Work: The IDEA Partnership
- 2005 PA Community on Transition Conference & Kickoff of Practice Groups
- Fall 2005 Pennsylvania Transition Outcome and Issue Forums
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Transition to Employment Projects – Year 2
- PDE Community-Based Employment Grant

# 2006

- Transition Healthcare Checklist published by the PA Dept. of Health
- Spring 2006 Regional Sessions: Expanding Capacity: Realizing Outcomes Regional Sessions
- PA Community on Transition Listserv launched, through sponsorship of the IDEA Partnership and Office of Special Education Programs
- PA Community on Transition web pages ([www.sharedwork.org](http://www.sharedwork.org)) launched, through sponsorship of the IDEA Partnership and Office of Special Education Programs

# 2006 (cont.)

- Inception of the PA Youth Leadership Network (PYLN)
- 2006 PA Youth Outcome Expo
- PA Post-School Outcomes Data System (PaPODS) launched
- PDE Community-Based Employment Grants
- Expansion of Office of Mental Retardation Employment Coalitions
- 2006 PA Community on Transition Conference: Expanding Capacity: Realizing Outcomes
- Fall 2006 Regional Sessions: Aligning Accommodations & Supports



# 2007

- Spring 2007 Transition Capacity Building Sessions: Building Business Partnerships to Improve Post-School Outcomes of Youth with Disabilities
- PA Post-School Outcomes Data System (PaPODS) expanded (now encompasses one-year follow-up)
- Extensive Indicator 13 Training for Educators
- PDE Community-Based Employment Grants
- PDE Community-Based Employment Grants to Serve Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders

## 2007 (cont.)

- Expansion of Office of Mental Retardation Employment Coalitions
- Expansion of the Resources and Tools available on [www.sharedwork.org/patransition](http://www.sharedwork.org/patransition)
- Development and Implementation of *A Shared Agenda on Transition*, Pennsylvania's unified transition strategic plan
- Creation of the Pennsylvania Local Transition Coordinating Council Alliance
- 2007 PA Community on Transition Forum: Expanding Outcomes through a Shared Agenda

# 2008

- Transition Health Care Videoconference Series- 4 sessions January 2008
- Expansion of State Performance Plan Indicators Training
- Further development of Post Secondary Outcomes Strategies – statewide training
- 2008 PA Community on Transition Conference: Building Leadership to Promote Successful Outcomes

## 2008 (cont.)

- Human Resources & Service Administration (HRSA ) State Implementation Grant to promote coordinated, comprehensive care to children and youth with special health care needs
- 2008 Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Transition Grant

# 2008 and Ongoing Autism Waivers: Bureau of Autism Services

- Governor Edward G. Rendell announced on May 22, 2008, that Pennsylvania has been approved for a first-of-its-kind federal waiver program to provide home and community based services specifically for adults with autism. The \$20 million-a-year waiver program is expected to serve up to 200 individuals 21 years of age and older with autism.

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/Autism/News/2008NewsAnnouncements/003677257.htm>

## 2008-09

- Community of Practice Statewide Trainings
  - October 2008: Assistive Technology for Transition
  - March 2009: Self Determination /Self Advocacy
- 2008-09 Bureau of Special Education Community-Based Employment Grants serving youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Transition Grant

# 2008-09

- Parent Trainings: “Transition: It’s Not Just for Kids – Parents Need A Transition Plan Too!”
  - Session #1 - March 3, 2009 “You Can’t Move Forward Until You Move Backwards”
  - Session #2 – March 24, 2009 “It’s A Brave New World: An Introduction to Secondary Transition”
  - Session #3 – April 4, 2009 “The GPS of Secondary Transition”
- All sessions archived on PTI websites!

# 2008-09

- Ongoing trainings around State Performance Plan:
  - Indicator 13 Cohort 1. Collaborative, team-based, hands on training by IU/ PaTTAN transition consultants. First of a series of five cohorts.
  - Indicator 14: Pennsylvania Post-School Outcomes Surveys (PAPOS) trainings for identified districts for students exiting HS and one year following graduation



# 2008-09 Continued Leadership in the National Community of Practice on Transition

- Since 2002, when Pennsylvania was the first state to begin the National Community of Practice on Transition, this national community has grown to 14 states.
- Members of the PA Community of Transition assist other states across the country to build communities.

# Long-Standing History of Regional & Local Efforts

- Regional & Local efforts through transition teams and Local Transition Coordinating Councils are the heart of the community where the real work happens day in and day out.
- Because of the rich network, promising practices are being replicated at an exponential rate across the state.
- These practitioners are the true leaders of the transition community!



# PYLN Mission

- The PYLN is a group of young adults with disabilities who want to make a difference in the lives of youth in Pennsylvania. The mission of the PYLN is to develop the self-determination, empowerment, and leadership of youth that promotes successful post school outcomes in the areas of education, employment, independent living, and health and wellness among youth and young adults throughout Pennsylvania.

# What Does PYLN Do?

- Provide a youth voice at the table on important boards and committees that impact the lives of youth with disabilities.
- Recruit and match mentors who are young adults with high school youth to help them prepare for their future success.
- Develop and share transition, self-determination, self-advocacy, and empowerment resources geared toward youth in high school.
- Ensure unbiased policies, practices and attitudes that affect individuals with disabilities

# Who They Are...

- Youth across Pennsylvania on the Governing Board
- Varied
  - Locations
  - Disability
  - Outcome
- Formed in 2005 at Transition Conference and growing annually

# What They Are Doing Now...

- Open Enrollment
  - Youth Mentor
  - Resource Consultant
  - Committees
  - Governing Board member
- Focusing on mentoring relationships
- Showcasing Youth Engaging Transition Toolkit
- To obtain the application, please visit [www.sharedwork.org/patransition](http://www.sharedwork.org/patransition)

# Pennsylvania's Year-Round Transition Strategy

*Building Our  
Capacity Together*



# Buy-in of Administration

- 1999 IDEA Memorandum of Understanding
- 2006 Transition MOU:
  - PA Shared Agenda on Transition
- Need to Focus on Outcome Data

# PA Transition State Leadership Team Supporting Our Year-Round Strategy

- Since 1999 at the state level, major efforts have been made to develop a unified plan for transition, resulting in the formation of the PA Community on Transition, supported by the Transition State Leadership Team (SLT).
- In a nutshell...our job is to support your work with youth and young adults and families!

# Year-Round Strategy

- The Pennsylvania Community on Transition has been strengthened through a year-round strategy to connect our work.
  - Annual Statewide Conference
  - Bi-Annual Cross-Systems Regional Capacity Building Sessions
  - Local Transition Coordinating Council Events

# Expanding Pennsylvania's Transition Communication Network

*As a result of our collaboration with the  
IDEA Partnership, tools are used to  
expand our capacity to realize successful  
post-school outcomes of youth with  
disabilities.*

[www.sharedwork.org/patransition](http://www.sharedwork.org/patransition)

- Through the work of state and local stakeholders, many resources and tools have been posted on the [www.sharedwork.org/patransition](http://www.sharedwork.org/patransition) website on group pages within Pennsylvania's site. Each group page provides an opportunity for ongoing communication and sharing among all transition stakeholders. New resources are added daily!

# Using [www.sharedwork..org](http://www.sharedwork.org) as a Tool for Collaboration

- Communication: home of the community
- Sharing Resources
- Statewide Transition Conference Planning
- Regional Cross-Systems Training
- Building Practice Groups
- Creating Toolkits
- Site for Local Teams to Work
- **NEW! Shared work will be updated and reorganized for ease of use, and migrated to its new site in fall 2009.**

# Benefiting from Each Other's Work and Creativity

- In order to expand our collective knowledge and power to improve post-school outcomes, there are a number of groups that work collaboratively:
  - Transition State Leadership Team
  - PA Youth Leadership Network
  - Local Transition Coordinating Councils
  - School Teams

# Working Smarter to Improve Post School Outcomes of Youth

Sharing Local Practices

*Learning from one another...  
activities, products & projects*



# Power of Working in a Community Framework

- Transition stakeholders share common issues
- Creating a learning environment where we develop projects, products and activities together and share our tools
  - Transition Health Care Checklist
  - Aligning Accommodations and Supports
  - Post-Secondary Education & Training
  - Systematic Career Development Strategies

# Our Future ... Together

## 2009-2010

# Our Future...Together (2009-10)

- Ongoing State Performance Plan Implementation Technical Assistance & Training (Indicator 13- measurable transition goals; post-school goals, Indicator 14 - Post School Outcomes)
- 2009-10 Bureau of Special Education Community-Based Employment Grants serving youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Ongoing transition trainings for Families and Caregivers

# Our Future...Together (2009-10)

## Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Transition Grants

- OVR continues to implement a five year, federal transition grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to replicate evidence-based transition models to improve employment outcomes of youth. During these sessions, OVR and its partners will be sharing information on the two programs being replicated across the Commonwealth, Project SEARCH and Project PAS.

# Our Future...Together (2009-10)

- Community of Practice Sessions: “Looking at the Whole Student”
  - Kickoff: Sept. 18, 2009
  - Part I: Nov. 12, 2009 Age appropriate assessments
  - Part II: Jan. 20, 2010 Systematic career development
  - Part III: March 23, 2010 Designing supports and services based on assessment
  - School Psychologist Training through PaTTAN King of Prussia

# Our Future ....Together

## Human Resources & Service Administration (HRSA ) State Implementation Grant (08-11)

- Application received for June 1, 2008 thru May 30, 2011.
- Goals
  - CYSHCN (children and youth with special healthcare needs) receive coordinated ongoing comprehensive care within a medical home
  - Community-based service systems will be organized so families can use them easily
  - Youth with special health care needs will receive the services necessary to make transition to all aspects of adult life, including adult health care, work, and independence

# Our Future ....Together

## HRSA State Implementation Grant (08-11)

- Create six regionally based Parent/Youth/Professional Forums (Forums) where local agencies, parents, and youth can engage in topical discussion about issues that impact CYSHCN (promote communication, education, needs assessments, and review and comment on policies and practices) Meetings starting in September 2009.
- Identify current service capacity and availability and identify the gaps in services that exist
- Create a model for sustainable integrated systems to guide future Title V funding decisions
- Recommend policy changes at the local, regional, and state level to address gaps and create a more seamless family centered service system

# Our Future ....Together

## HRSA State Implementation Grant (08-11)

- Expand capacity for providing medical homes to CYSHCN in rural and under served areas
- Engage FQHCs, FQHC Look-Alikes, Rural Health Centers (RHC), and other medical home providers as team members in the Forums
- Work with the PA Association of Community Health Centers in adopting the medical home concept
- Create quality improvement networks with participating medical home practices, FQHCs, RHCs, education, community systems and adult health care providers
- Conduct a Learning Collaborative for medical home practices, FQHCs, RHCs, and adult providers to address quality improvement, cultural competency and best practices



# Our Future ....Together

## HRSA State Implementation Grant (08-11)

- Organize a Learning Collaborative that includes FQHCs, RHCs, medical home practices, Elks Nurses, school personnel, YSHCN and families, state agencies, and local employers to develop a model to coordinate medical and education transition life span planning
- Increase access to transition information and services
- Work with medical home practices to incorporate family/youth as part of transition planning and policy development in their practice
- Collaborate with the PA Youth Leadership Network to expand the cadre of youth leaders in each region to further the work

# PA's Shared Agenda on Transition: Promoting a Year-Round Strategy

Plan Goals  
2009-2010

# PA Shared Agenda on Transition: Promoting a Year-Round Strategy (2009-10)

- Revise PA's site on Shared Work [www.sharedwork.org](http://www.sharedwork.org) in preparation for migration to new site; train stakeholders on use of new site; determine how tools could be used to increase stakeholder involvement; survey stakeholders regarding new site
- Obtain and analyze data from local Transition Coordinating Councils (TCCs) to determine needs for technical support
- Outreach to support PYLN engagement and youth voice within SLT

# PA Shared Agenda on Transition: Promoting a Year-Round Strategy (2009-10)

- Increase cross-systems alignment of supported employment for youth with disabilities
- Increase family knowledge of secondary transition process and services
- Employ data-driven decision-making at the SLT level via establishment of a subcommittee of SLT and development of a protocol for data-driven discourse
- Continue to develop and implement year-round training strategies ( “Looking at the Whole Student”)

# PA Community on Transition

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