

## Autism Work Group

January 13, 2022

### PRESENTERS:

- Jennie Masterson – DDS Supported Employment Coordinator
- Chris Kennedy – College Steps
- Mark Prior – Howard Center
- Karen Hussey – Howard Center
- Bryan Dague – Think College, UVM

The **Post Secondary Ed consortium** : Think college, SUCCEED, College Steps, Project Search, Global Campuses

Options:

1. College support providers: 4 or 5 VT colleges, College steps/think college/SUCCEED  
Facilitate self-designed college plans, peer mentors to support, campus-based coordinators, create internships leading to employment at graduation, independent living skills
2. Lifelong learning and teaching: Global Campus- various locations throughout state, CCV etc.  
students select topics to research, present to peers, community. Run own campus, elevates students' self-esteem. Can participate in program as often as want.
3. Business hosted technical training: project SEARCH. DHMC, Rutland Regional, & UVMMC. 3  
internship rotations, real time managers provide feedback in real work conditions, goal is to provide job development with job hires at completion.

Supported employment will work with these providers for solid transition to community

**THINK college at UVM:** Bryan Dague- began 2010 as federal grant, now sustained through Medicaid waiver. Mission to design an inclusive program for students with ID (75 or below). Now expanded to ASD and DD.

Pillars: Academic enrichment – Social activities – Life skills and self-advocacy skills – Career skills and work experience

Supported by peer mentors 15-20 hrs/week, lot of educ and social work majors (undergrads)

2-3 yr certificate of college studies at completion of program

90% employment rate when finish

**College Steps:** Chris Kennedy: College Steps started out as a Think college program. Expanded beyond the original grant. Johnson, NVU, Castleton, CCV.

Same 4 pillars as above

Meetings with larger teams to collaborate/forecast long term employment goals.

Eligibility is pretty broad; originally ID; now documentation of social, communication or learning disability. Have to participate in college program. Student must be invested – can't "make" them do things.

15 hrs support a week on campus on average.

Outcome to increase autonomy and meaningful careers.

**PROJECT SEARCH:** Jarrod James at DHMC. Program focus on developing marketable skills, variety of disabilities, must work with some level of independence (not need 1:1 support). 75% need DS post-graduation. Collaboration of partners to run program – host business, school component, long term Developmental service agency, voc rehab, families. One year program. Frontload supports at first, and then fade.

Karen Hussey Howard Center – Project Search. Interns attend M-F full day. Follow academic calendar. Start and end day in classroom setting. In between internship setting.

16 hrs a week minimum work expectation at graduation, year round employment

Deb Baker Moody- instructor UVMCC Project Search: have 2 career coaches. Employment outcomes are very strong. Lots of practicing communication skills. Student must be motivated.

**Howard Center SUCCEED:** Mark Prior

Pillars: Education/Career Development/Campus life/Residential-independent living.

Eligibility: HS graduates 18-25, diagnostic criteria for Medicaid waiver, meet independence and safety requirements, full year participation (2-3 yrs total), voluntary. Follow UVM semester schedule and host own summer semester.

Has residential piece – 2 residential homes in downtown Burlington like small specialized dorms. Chores like shopping, cooking, etc. Supports include guidance philosophy, mobile team supports, academic supports, navigation of Burlington and UVM safely.

**GLOBAL CAMPUSES** Patti Gannon: open to students of all abilities, no entrance criteria, may have support with you if needed, meet once a week for 2 hrs at a community campus, by exploring new interests students can demonstrate their personal and professional growth. Focus on self confidence and empowerment. GC classes: decide what they are going to teach about, courses connect participant to new material. At end of semester get certificate. Also do community service and outreach. New name Peer Teaching and Learning upcoming.

## **FUNDING**

### **DIRECT SUPPORT FEES**

HCBS funds direct program supports

DDS provider agencies

Grants

IDEA funds

### **COLLEGE TUITION FEES**

VSAC non degree grant

Div Voc Rehab up to \$2000 year

PASS plans/ABLE account

Dual enrollment/High school

SSA PASS funds/ ABLE accounts

classes as audit reduces rate

Private pay

Community scholarships, etc.

Other Resources:

- Vermont Family Network Transition Toolkit
- SPED need training in how to lead the transition process.
- VR has 26 transition coaches around the state to help.
- Should be starting by 15 to talk about transition process
- BRIDGE program: often working with families t/o child's lifespan, BRIDGE coordinator can help families with this transition process as well.

UPDATES:

Mel Houser: Saturday ABB hosting sensory informed vaccination clinic for children and adults.