

Transition Interagency Agreement 2013 Annual Status Report

The purpose of the this Annual Status Report is to share the progress that the Department of Workforce Development - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and the Department of Health Services (DHS) have made regarding the four priorities included in their Interagency Agreement on Transition. The four priorities are:

1. To comply with federal legal mandates under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA).
2. To provide practical guidance, technical assistance, and training to internal and external stakeholders and staff regarding employment-related services and supports.
3. To provide information on employment services to individuals with disabilities and their family members or guardians so they will be able to participate fully in employment.
4. To provide clarification of roles of stakeholders within each respective department regarding individuals with disabilities who have identified support needs associated with employment and independent living, so that individuals and their families may regard such efforts to be as seamless, non-duplicative, and as transparent as possible.

The items included below are highlights of some of the many activities and progress that have occurred throughout the year in transition.

1. To comply with federal legal mandates under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA).

- DVR continues to fulfill the mandates under the Rehabilitation Act by:
 - Continued collaboration and the Interagency Agreement with DPI and DHS. Updated in December 2010.
 - Continuation of providing outreach, technical assistance to students with disabilities, coordination of the IPE and IEP, and services to transition students who are eligible for DVR as agreed to in their IPE.
- DPI continues to fulfill the mandates under IDEA by:
 - Maintaining and increasing communication and collaboration with internal and external transition stakeholders.
 - Creation of a new discretionary grant, the Transition Improvement Grant (TIG), that began July 1, 2013. The grant combines our State Performance Plan work around the areas of Indicator 13 and Indicator 14. The goals of the grant include:
 - Provide technical assistance to schools and LEAs on data collection and reporting requirements of State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators 13 and 14.
 - Provide professional development opportunities on the interaction between the transition IEP and post-high school outcomes, using multiple indicator data to identify local needs and determine improvement strategies to positively effect changes in the post high school outcomes of youth with disabilities.
 - Engage, communicate, and collaborate with transition partners including DPI discretionary grants to improve post high school outcomes for students with disabilities through a coordinated, state-wide effort.

- Through evaluation of professional development and TIG resources, ensure that targeted technical assistance is being directed to identified low performing LEAs to improve the performance of their students' post high school outcomes.
- TIG support County Councils on Transition in their efforts to increase communication, form new relationships, work together better, and improve the transition of youth with disabilities and their families.

2. To provide practical guidance, technical assistance, and training to internal and external stakeholders and staff regarding employment-related services and supports.

- DHS – The Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) Waivers Monthly Statewide Teleconferences included several updates on transition and employment including the launch of the new “You Can Work” brochure and a presentation on Project SEARCH from the Statewide Project SEARCH Coordinator.
- The DHS Children’s Section continues to provide technical assistance to county waiver agencies and to develop additional opportunities for service coordinators.
- DHS developed and disseminated the “You Can Work” brochure for youth with significant disabilities and mental health issues:
http://www.wsti.org/wstidata/resources/dhs-you-can-work_1376661553.pdf
- DHS provides updates on the PROMISE Grant to county waiver agencies.
- DVR/DPI/DHS staff have participated and taken a leadership role in the Wisconsin Community on Transition (WiCoT) focusing on transition outcomes for students with disabilities.
 - WI CoT Provided 2 Job Developer trainings – 150 people attended.
 - Surveyed CCOT/TAC’s and planned a retreat for 2014.
- DHS staff presented employment information to the DHS Children’s Long Term Support Council and the Autism Council. The presentations included information on the DHS’s role in the TAG.
- DVR/DPI/DHS participated in WI APSE Conference panel presentation
- DVR/DHS presented at the DPI’s quarterly Transition Coordinator Network meeting regarding current employment-related initiatives and services.
- DVR/DPI/DHS staff presented at the WisABA Annual Conference on a panel about employment initiatives and each agency’s role in the TAG.
- DVR continues to provide presentations regarding DVR services at CESA 11’s the Wisconsin Statewide Transition Conference for internal and external stakeholders.
- DPI staff presented at the DVR Bi-Regional Conferences on working effectively with parents and students.
- DVR provided 2 statewide transition study hall trainings to DVR staff on providing services to youth with disabilities.
- DHS staff provided a Youth in Transition presentation on transition to adult long-term care and employment at the Katie Beckett Consultant Network Meeting for consultants for KBP MA and Compass Wisconsin Threshold programs.
- DHS continues building the infrastructure of the IRIS Section housed under the Bureau of Long Term Supports. In 2013, the IRIS Section identified a sole staff member to focus on improving integrated employment outcomes in IRIS. The staff person or the IRIS Employment Liaison in collaboration with the IRIS Consultant Agency and the DHS Employment Initiatives Section is developing formal IRIS employment policies, work instructions for IRIS Consultants, and participant-oriented training materials as part of the IRIS Policy Initiative. The goal of the IRIS policy initiative is to give participants access to the tools, resources and information needed to successfully self-direct their employment services.

- The DHS IRIS Employment liaison has engaged stakeholders through attendance at DHS/MCO/IRIS Integrated Employment Workgroup meetings, Employment First workgroup meetings, and the IRIS Advisory Committee
- The DHS IRIS Section, DHS Employment Initiatives Section and the IRIS Consultant Agency (TMG) continue to meet on a monthly basis to collaborate on ways to move the IRIS Employment Initiative forward through increasing integrated employment outcomes for IRIS participants.
- The IRIS Employment Liaison met with DVR leadership to educate them on the redesign of the IRIS program as well as discussing potential efficiencies that could be gained from collaboration between DHS IRIS and DVR.
- Some ADRC s have begun to designate a staff person as a primary contact for youth in transition and employment resources.
- ADRC staff continues to work in cooperation with the state's Children's Long Term Support participants to provide guidance for those youth who are in need of continued services and support from one of Wisconsin's long-term care programs.
- DHS participated in presentations on mental health issues of youth and young adults at the annual conference on mental health and substance conference, at the NAMI conference, at the Transition Conference and at the Transition Academy. Several of these involved co-presenting with a young adult with lived experience with mental health issues.
- Two cohorts of young adults with experience living with mental health challenges have been trained as young adult peer specialists.
- DVR/DPI/DHS participated and presented at DPI's Transition Improvement Grant's Transition Academy in November which focused on College and Career Ready for transition age youth. Approximately 224 people attended this event.
- DPI supported the release of a new web resource the Transition Improvement Plan (TIP) <http://wsti.org/tip.html>. The TIP uses NSTTAC's predictors of Post-school success activities centered around the definitions and the essential characteristics of promising transition practices that have been extracted from high quality correlation research which includes students with disabilities and are intended to provide schools, district and other stakeholders in secondary transition with a framework for determining the degree to which their programs are implementing practices that are likely to lead to more positive post-school outcomes for students with disabilities.
- DPI has mandated the use of a new Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) application for all school district to document the IEP transition plan for students with disabilities. After one year, Wisconsin has reached a 99% Indicator 13 compliance rate.

3. To provide information on employment services to individuals with disabilities and their family members or guardians so they will be able to participate fully in employment.

- DPI/DVR/DHS jointly worked during 2013 to develop the Transition Improvement Grant "Transition through High School" brochure, which provides a list of activities sorted by the recommended age to assist in the transition process.
- DHS worked with DPI and DVR to develop the "You Can Work" brochure for youth receiving Children's Waiver services to encourage a vision for employment.
- DHS launched a pilot to explore mentoring for employability-skill building for CLTS youth at Let's Get to Work schools
- DVR & DHS staff continues to present at schools to students and present at events for parents to share information on employment services.
- DPI discretionary grant funds were used to conduct the Transition Improvement Grant (TIG) Transition Academy in November, which focused on College and Career Readiness.

- DVR staff continues to attend IEP meetings when invited and able to attend and to provide employment planning consultation.
- DWD was awarded the PROMISE Grant in September 2013. The grant is an interagency collaboration with DWD/DPI/DHS and DCF. The grant will start enrollment in April. <http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/newsroom/press-release/wisconsin-awarded-325-million-federal-grant-prepare-youth-special-need>
- DVR/DPI/DHS participated and presented at the WSTI Transition Academy in December that focused on employment for transition age youth.
- DPI/DVR/DHS jointly worked during 2013 to develop the Transition Improvement Grant "Transition through High School" brochure, which provides a list of activities sorted by the recommended age to assist in the transition process.
- DHS provides information to individuals with disabilities and their families through training opportunities at conferences and other venues regarding resources available to assist them meet their educational and employment-related goals.
- DHS provides technical assistance, access to funding (etc.) to support local providers of long-term support and mental health providers who provide direct services to individuals of transition age and their families.
- DHS is working on transition data collection and reports related to mentoring and employment service use among CLTS Waivers participants.
- In 2013, the IRIS Consultant Agency held employment-focused Network and Learning Events across the state to engage IRIS participants and stakeholders. These events provided training on how to best utilize employment services as well as providing a platform for stakeholders to share their experiences with IRIS and employment.
- ADRC staff throughout the state began participation in the 12 Transition Initiative Grant Night meetings sponsored by statewide CESA programs for students and families. These meetings provide an opportunity for parents and students to learn how their local ADRC can become a useful resource during transition to adulthood.
- ADRCs continued to assist young adults as they begin to explore options including Long Term Care programs and services.
- Many ADRCs in the state have participated in school-sponsored programs, which have highlighted community resources and employment options for youth in transition.
- ADCR staff continues to provide information and assistance for both publically funded programs and private pay resources.
- ADRCs continued to work with young adults and families to explore and assist with applications for program(s) that may require a disability determination after individuals turn 18.
- As part of the Healthy Transitions Initiative, DHS received a certification for a statewide chapter of Youth MOVE National called MOVE Wisconsin. This is an organization of youth and young adults to raise awareness about issues including employment that affect young people with mental health issues.
- DHS Updated the "Transition Resources for Youth with Mental Health and/or Emotional Disturbance and their Families."

4. To provide clarification of roles of stakeholders within each respective department regarding individuals with disabilities who have identified support needs associated with employment and independent living, so that individuals and their families may regard such efforts to be as seamless, non-duplicative, and as transparent as possible.

- The TAG continues to support the goals of the WSTI, Post School Outcomes, and Transition Hub projects of improving the transition process and outcomes students with disabilities. The key to

both state and local level Communities on Transition is sharing the work, establishing effective communication and new relationships to better work together. Through the course of this year the TAG participants have provided technical assistance to TACs/C-CoT addressing the structure, function, and appraisal of the councils.

- DPI developed a interactive online module to compliment the paper and online version of the Transition Action Guide <http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/av/tag-post-school-plan/player.html>
- DPI/DVR/DHS jointly developed a *Wisconsin State Trend Data Report* on transition. The purpose of this report is to use our state data to assist in sharing information, improving transition planning, creating improved communication, identifying services, collaborating in activities, interagency planning and data driven targeted technical assistance. This report can be viewed at:
http://www.wsti.org/wstidata/resources/2011%20wisconsin%20state%20trend%20datashortversion_1350665908-1_1352927584.pdf
- DVR continues to support its Statewide Transition Action and Resource Team (START) in their efforts to improve consistency and the level of engagement in the transition process.
- DHS held internal discussions about supporting transition to ensure seamless supports from Children's LTS programs to adult LTS programs and Mental Health programs.
- DHS/DPI/DVR participation on Let's Get to Work consortium
- MCO/DHS Integrated Employment Workgroup Officially Chartered for DHS, many activities of this group center on collaboration and understanding of the 3 systems.
- MCO Employment Specialists were established to address employment issues – they are part of the TAC's, work with schools on transition issues, and outreach to DVR.
- ICare connected to employers, MPS and VR as part of an MCO MIG Grant along with a web site to encourage transition students to participate in Integrated Employment.
- WI Project SEARCH is in 7 communities in WI and has placed several transition age youth in integrated community jobs. Project SEARCH will also be expanding to up to 20 new sites over the next 3 years.
- The Office of Independence and Employment (OIE) has been moved under Managed Long Term Care under the Office of Family Care Expansion. The focus of OIE will continue to be on employment across all long-term care programs and disabilities. The emphasis is on integrated community based employment at a competitive wage.
- DHS 2014-2015 Department Priorities include “change policy and practice to better support the paid, integrated community outcomes of youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities consistent with the ‘Let's Get to Work’ initiative.”
- DVR/DPI/DHS participation on Think College Steering Committee and sub-committees.
- PROMISE grant proposal written and implemented collaboratively
- DHS (CLTS and CIP Waivers) held meetings with the Rock County DD Board regarding transitions for youth with developmental disabilities and their employment options.
- DHS sponsored a series of focus groups involving separate groups of high school and middle school youth, parents and school staff to explore perceptions of trauma in these age groups. The results will be used to inform future activities, including efforts to educate about and minimize stigma.
- DHS participated on the advisory workgroup to DCF in the preparation of the PATHS to Success planning grant and continue to participate in their workgroups.