



Transition Networks

The Purpose, and Efforts for Success



Artwork by Rohan Srinivasan

How to Develop a Transition Network

Presented By:

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Interagency Transition Networks Defined

- A group of stakeholders who collaborate to improve transition services and outcomes for youth and families
- Accurate and current information sharing
- Collaboration between schools, adult agencies, and resources
- Knowledge on how to navigate systems

Kittitas County High School Transition Network

Sam Blazina, Regional Transition Consultant, DVR

Ro's Tree of Joy by Rohan Srinivasan



Mission

We support people with disabilities when they move from school to adult life. We help schools and community agencies work together. When we all work together, we can make change easier!

History

- Stablshed since 1998
 - Initially hosted by the larger school district in the County
 - No base funding
 - Currently community led and organized

Structure

- Monthly meetings
- Currently virtual
- Typical Agenda
 - School district's updates
 - State and County agency updates
 - Non-profit and local agency updates
 - Event and opportunity sharing
 - Brainstorming ideas (what's next, what's needed?)
 - Guest speakers

Partnerships

- School district's teachers and administrators
- State agencies – DVR, DDA, DSB
- County Agency
- Community Rehab Program/Employment Vendors
- Non-Profits – Advocacy agency
- Parent Network – P2P, Parent Coalition
- DVR contractors
- Others

The Networking

- Transition Fairs
- Public announcements
- Transition packets and check lists for students
- Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KCHSTN>
- Trainings and workshops on a variety of topics to:
 - parents, students, educators, and other community members

Resilience and Commitment



Yakima County Transition Network

*“The best thing you can do is the right thing;
the next best thing you can do is the wrong
thing; the worst thing you can do is nothing.”*

-Theodore Roosevelt

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Drafting the Plan

- 2019- Small DOH grant awarded to Yakima County Parent to Parent to develop a local Interagency Transition Network
- Local stakeholders convened to determine next steps
- Hosted training with Lori Scott, ESD 123, and Dana Floyd, ESD 105, to share a 'blueprint' of what an ITN could be
- Convened multiple stakeholder meetings to determine local strengths, challenges and gaps of transition to adulthood services and supports in Yakima County
- Identified short and long term goals

Laying the Foundation

Developed the Mission/Vision statement:

Mission:

The mission of the Yakima County Interagency Transition Network, in partnership with community stakeholders, is to support every student with disabilities as they transition into adulthood and establish meaningful community engagement that honors individuality and personal choice.

Vision:

We are dedicated to promoting welcoming and inclusive communities for people with disabilities.

- **Developed member communication plan** [Transiton Padlet](#)
- **Developed meeting flyer/calendar and meeting structure**

Meeting Frameworks

- Workgroup that structures and plans meeting topic, presentations, and ITN yearly goals
- Open community transition training opportunities
- Subcommittee's that engage parent and district partners

Our Successes

- Diverse group of engaged stakeholders who were engaged at the beginning (DDA, DVR, ESD 105, Children's Village/Parent to Parent, PAVE, employment vendors, schools, parents, DD County Coordinator/Health District)
- COVID 19 – Virtual meetings increased engagement of different stakeholders
- Shared leadership
- Regular communication and information dissemination
- Developing infra-structure (communication/teaming tools, meeting flyer, etc.) Subcommittees – parents and school stakeholders
- History of working well together!

Our Challenges

- COVID-19- our ITN was launching just as the Pandemic started
- Engaging students
- Engaging district partners within the county
- Determining the structure of meetings that benefitted all stakeholders
- Time and money!

And, we're still building!

Questions?

Whitman County Transition Network

Mary Marsh, Regional Transition Coordinator,
DVR

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Structure

- Monthly Meetings
- Agenda Topics
 - Correspondence
 - Agency updates
 - Transition Fair Planning

Partnerships

- Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Whitman Co. Developmental Disabilities Employment Services
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Washington State University
- Families Together
- Rural Resources
- Boost Collaborative
- Pullman School District
- Other surrounding school Districts

Our Success

- Long history of providing a Spring Transition Fair
- Provided informative session on direct services and topics related to transition issues
- Resources Fair included

Our Challenges

- Continuous conversations to adapt structure to provide information in a helpful way to school staff and families.
- Engaging school staff
- Funding



Questions



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Questions?



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