



North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

Discussion for NC Legislative Study Group

During the fall meeting, we reviewed recommendations to provide to the NC legislative study group for Session Law 2015-241 Section 11.19(a). This session law is an unfunded bill that allows a legislative study group to learn more about the need for inclusive postsecondary education and employment for youths with disabilities.

Holly Riddle relayed information about the advisory committee creating a report to the study group last November. The committee is now developing recommendations to move forward. The October focus is on postsecondary recommendations and opportunities meant to make the case for postsecondary education for students with disabilities, specifically intellectual disabilities or autism, including the need for these students to be included and how this benefits others.

During the meeting, four groups met to discuss recommendations on four topics relating to postsecondary education in NC for people with disabilities, with a focus on assessing the gaps and needs, developing programs and fiscal policies to develop and sustain postsecondary opportunities, and to determine what needs to be added and public awareness for getting the word out. The group also discussed the need to collect more data and disseminate better information and options for technology to link databases to assess what each group is doing.

Each group discussed needs and strategies for a specific topic.

1. Create a state-wide IPSE coordinating center
2. Maintain satellites in the eastern and western regions of the state
3. Provide technical assistance to IPSE opportunities across NC
4. Implement a public awareness campaign

The ideas from each group are summarized on page 4.



Tamira White, CIDD LEND trainee in IPSE and transition, leads breakout group discussing IPSE needs and strategies.

Member Updates



Anna Ward, director of Scholars with Diverse Abilities (SDAP) at Appalachian State has begun a partnership with the business school, with a grant funded to start the program. SDAP students work with entrepreneurial students to create small businesses. They hired an intern who is working on creating these small businesses with the students in their program. They were invited to share about their program with the UNC System Board of Governors. They also hired **Mary Strong**, who has recently been involved with SDAP.

Sharon Jackson with Cleveland County Schools discussed their partnership with Cleveland Community College. Students in the Occupational Course of Study attend four days a week; life skills students attend all day. Courses are taught by Cleveland CC instructors. Their Project SEARCH has partnered with Gardner Webb University. These programs have emerged from the philosophy that all students be served in age-appropriate settings.

Project Achieve for Transitioning High School Students (PATHSS), directed by **Adela Van Name**, is trying an expanded model in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools to involve more students throughout the school district.

Cape Fear Community College's Essentials Program is usually for OCS graduates and for students functioning below eighth grade level, according to director **Kathy Martinez**. Students are in regular academic classes part of the day, with the other part of the day in a career Pathways program. They are trying to get Pathways certified. The students have been earning CEUs for Pathways. This program is designed as a two-year program from 9am to 3:30 pm four days a week. The high school teacher for the academic portion goes with students to the Pathways portion. This program is closely connected with VR.

Monica Isbell announced that Career College at Alamance Community College has 30 students enrolled. The newest Pathway is animal care assistant. They are working on adding credentials and preparing to move to a two-year program in 2018.

The NC Division of Medical Assistance highlighted some changes to service definitions, emphasizing the changes with Vocational Rehabilitation benefits planning, which will now allow services for someone who has not decided on a career. This would include benefits planning now available for students considering postsecondary education. **David Ingram** supports this effort in his DHHS role.

Lisa Pluff shared that UNC-Greensboro's IPSE currently has 64 students enrolled, and recently partnered with Monarch, a statewide service provider. The name Beyond Academics is slowly being removed, but the structure will be maintained. The goal with the Monarch partnership is to provide additional capacity and supports, step up increased access for UNCG students, and increase access to students statewide. Monarch has a presence in 40 counties across NC.

Trudie Hughes with the NC Community College System reported that throughout the state, many colleges have shifted to programs that are focusing on the workforce. Next year, funding will be competitive and the community colleges must demonstrate that they are focused on the workforce setting. With Project SEARCH, they are trying to get funding for a full time instructor with Continuing Education and looking to obtain industry recognized credentials. They would also like to expand Project SEARCH throughout the state from the eight that currently exist.

Wake Tech just began the fourth quarter with many new students in basic academics, **Julia Tennant** said. They are currently enrolling students in the Hospitality and Tourism career pathway, offered through a partnership with Continuing Education. This is the fourth year offering this career pathway and will run from October 2017 to April 2018. Students earn up to 4 nationally recognized credentials. Wake Tech is actively working to develop new career pathways and online classes.

McCafferty presented for Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders (LEND) at Arizona State to discuss making LEND more inclusive. She also facilitated a Community Talk panel at UNC-Chapel Hill, "Variations of a Full Life: A Panel Discussion with Disability Rights Advocates."

Member Updates continued

A paper has been published in **Disability and Health Journal** about the impact on the cohort of LEND trainees in the graduate-level leadership training consortium that includes self-advocate trainees as participants. The program at UNC-Chapel Hill is funded by the US Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

NC DPI Exceptional Children Division is in the second year of having local school districts conduct self-assessments, and based on their needs, the EC Division responds. **Beverly Cowell** said they are beginning to put trainings and other information on Canvas, an online training module platform, to spread the information across the state. Local school districts have begun their own phone surveys for Indicator 14 and have increased the response rate (over 1000 compared to less than 300 last year).

NC Students with ID-mild who exited high school in Spring 2017 totaled 717.



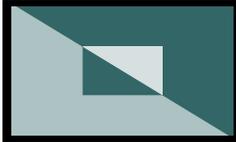
Kalin Stewart reports the HEELS UP (Higher Education, Employment, and Living Success-University Participant) planning committee is continuing to meet and develop an IPSE at UNC-Chapel Hill. There have been meetings across campus and the committee is working towards administrative approval and a finalized budget.

Glenna Osbourne with TEACCH provided updates on Project SEARCH adding an autism enhancement component that will begin in Wake County Schools in fall 2018, as an opportunity to work in high school programs for students with ASD and ID. T-STEP is also in place at Wake Tech and Central Piedmont Community College, serving 11-15 students. It is a comprehensive, intensive program for one semester. They are getting positive outcome results, and hope to have more data soon.

Ruby's Rainbow is a scholarship program for college students with Down Syndrome. A record \$137,500 was awarded to 47 recipients across the country this year. <https://rubysrainbow.org>

Tamira White, Donna Yerby, and Deb Zuver attended the Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance (SE PSEA) conference in June in Nashville, TN. During the conference, the group had the opportunity to attend the Vocational Rehabilitation meeting and learn how VR is working with IPSE opportunities and providing supports in other states. The next SE PSEA conference is Spring 2018 in Memphis, TN.

Harriet Able and Nancy Bagatell at UNC-Chapel Hill completed a postsecondary transition study for adolescents with high-functioning autism to develop a parent and family program for successful transitioning.



Feedback From NC PSEA for NC Legislative Study Group

Small group Ideas

Fall Meeting

Discussion: Statewide IPSE Coordinating Center

- Central location for addressing key issues for success
- Unified location for tracking outcomes
- Provide education to families to raise expectations regarding postsecondary education/employment
- Technical assistance provided through coordinating center
- Hub for resources for developing two-year vs. four-year models
- Employment, self-determination, community networking, independent living, social participation data from NC IPSE
- Develop outcome measures
- Screening, triage, referral
- Comprehensive information on all IPSEs in NC
- Providing information to school systems about IPSE options
- Develop a portal that parents can access to understand IPSE options
- Track outcomes for longitudinal studies
- Academic setting to capture research already in place
- Resources for other universities to start IPSE
- Best practices

Discussion: Satellites in the East and West

- Trainings (Ex; Project SEARCH)
- Collect data
- Offer library of resources
- Innovative approaches to meetings and resources
- Appalachian State could be a hub in the West
- Peer-to-peer links

- NC Works as a partner for community colleges
- Consider how to unify fractured system of services across state
- Use existing money to address need
- As community colleges lose students, IPSE opportunities offer options for recruiting more students

Discussion: Providing Technical Assistance to IPSE opportunities across NC

- Identify model sites
- Fidelity components for research opportunities
- Consider funding opportunities and range of costs
- Capacity building and systems change for educators and employers

Discussion: Public Awareness Campaign

- Start early, include disability awareness and history in curriculum
- Flyers and brochures that include information about IPSE opportunities
- An up-to-date website with materials to download, opportunities to send self-advocates to schools; let them know they have abilities; connect to people
- Keep the website alive by providing constant updates, using blogs
- Creation and utilization of social media across platforms
- Organize the expertise and get it to families
- Develop a phone app
- Resource fairs
- Reach out to educators about IPSE options
- Gather data and report, connect to stories about student experiences



Save the Date! Winter Quarterly Meeting:
January 16, 2018 :: 12:00 to 3:00 :: CIDD

Questions or comments? Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu 919.962.3603