

Transition Aged Services Listening Session

February 15, 2022

Agenda

- Introduction and purpose of listening session
- What types of coordination are important for adolescents as they approach adulthood?
- What services are most important?
- Are there any barriers that exist today for successful transition?
- What areas of transition planning can be improved?
- Next Steps

What types of coordination are important for adolescents as they approach adulthood?

- Educational coordination
- Individualized employment should be an option for everyone
- From a state subject matter expert perspective some of this seems disjointed and unclear accountability
 - Roles and responsibilities need to be more clear
- Bridge from pediatric services to adult services – knowing what services are available and ensuring that there is a warm handoff
- Need to ensure that this transition planning starts early – often it is a scramble at the end
 - Can we create more effective triggers in the system
- Important to follow through with ongoing planning and check-ins to determine if things are working
- Specific transition coordination needs:
 - Identifying housing options/resources
 - Guardianship and payee resources and information for families
- SSI application implications on transition
 - Discussion around how IEP can allow services through the age of 21 but that may not always be known or occurring
- Main concern/issue is having the right services in place and getting supports that are appropriate to the individual
- Vocational rehabilitation options felt restrictive and not always what individual wants to pursue
 - Felt like got the run around
- Individuals and families don't know what they don't know and what to do to get the ball rolling
 - Build a transition services guide to help
 - One stop shop for planning for transition
 - Align with care coordination

What services are most important?

Are there any barriers that exist today for successful transition?

- Misinformation about pursuing employment and losing benefits
 - Need to ensure that individuals pursuing employment are connected to benefit planners
- Affordable housing
- Transportation
- Individuals with very complex needs that need to be monitored or cared for 24/7 – how they live in the community and build infrastructure
 - Not all individuals would want to have roommates or live with others
 - Need more access to host homes – is there a way that we can create more awareness
- Access and ability for non-English speaking individuals from accessing or providing services – need emphasis for culturally responsive services
- Guardianship vs. substitute decision maker – coordinate with courts?
 - Different types of guardianship
 - Need to understand scope of authority in decision making

What areas of transition planning can be improved?

- How can we work together better with VR, SILC, Dept of the Blind, etc so that all are working towards the same goals?
- With independent living model there seems to be a gap in terms of resources
 - Housing
 - Ability to find direct caregivers and staff
- Talk about independent living in multiple areas but who is responsible and doing oversight for Olmstead compliance?
- Work to bring teams of people together to plan on how to better support transition activities – maximize use of funds across systems
 - DHS
 - IWD
 - Department of Ed
 - MHDS Regions
 - DOC
 - SILC
 - IEDA
 - DOT and Regional Transportation/HIRTA
- Brainstorm about how connections can be made outside of traditional service settings (e.g. RIGs)
- How can we communicate better / more effectively / broader to reach individuals that are not accessing internet
- Group of aging parents who have children living at home – may also have challenges leveraging web-based materials
- High need to focus some efforts on transition planning for adult children living in the homes of aging caregivers