

# **Transition Interagency Agreement 2016 Annual Status Report of 2015 Activities**

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 as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) enacted on July 22, 2014.
  - Continued collaboration and the Interagency Agreement with DPI and DHS. Updated in December 2010.
  - Continued 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 providing ongoing updates/improvements to the Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) application designed to support students to have appropriate and meaningful post-school goals and a plan to work toward those goals, and to assist school districts in achieving compliance with federal Indicator 13 requirements.
  - Maintaining and providing ongoing updates/improvements to the Post-school Outcomes Survey designed to collect data in compliance with federal Indicator 14 requirements.

- Providing technical assistance to schools and LEAs on data collection and reporting requirements of State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators 13 (PTP) and 14 (PSO). This includes PTP trainings, monthly review of PTP input by districts, design of PSO survey, maintenance of resource information websites, and training on the PTP and PSO survey conduct for districts choosing to conduct their own surveys. PSO data is utilized to consider technical assistance needs and targets for statewide outcomes.
  - Engaging, communicating, and collaborating with transition partners including DPI discretionary grants to improve post high school outcomes for students with disabilities through a coordinated, state-wide effort.
  - Completing 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.
  - Offering regular professional development opportunities for districts regarding implementation of best practices in transition planning for youth with disabilities, including the development of a comprehensive Transition Improvement Planning system (TIP).
  - Providing ongoing 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. This includes mini-courses, single trainings, Transition Collaboration Network meetings, and an annual statewide conference.
- Coordination of and participation in a statewide Wisconsin Community of Practice on Transition (WI-CoT), that includes a range of stakeholders and support for local transition practice communities across the state.
    - TIG collaborates quarterly with primary stakeholders, including DVR and DHS through face-to-face meetings to discuss needs and conduct planning for ongoing efforts to increase positive outcomes for youth with disabilities in Wisconsin.
    - TIG supports County Communities 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. This includes the development of a tool for CCoT's to utilize to maintain engagement and set goals, and an annual retreat to bring CCoT's together to review data, plan, and engage in professional development around transition best practices.
  - Preparation for the implementation of WIOA final rule through the development and dissemination of information and planned revisions to the PTP.
    - DPI and TIG have developed a document explaining basic information about the changes anticipated under WIOA upon publication of the final federal rule. DPI and DVR co-presented a keynote session at the 2015 statewide Transition Academy. Additional presentations have also been made and are being planned.

- District administrators have been notified of primary anticipated changes by DPI.
- TIG began preparing to support districts with changes anticipated under WIOA and included a presentation on this topic at the final Transition Collaboration Network meeting for 2015.

## **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](http://www.wsti.org/wstidata/resources/dhs-you-can-work_1376661553.pdf)
- DHS provides updates on the PROMISE Grant to county waiver agencies.
- DVR was awarded the PROMISE Grant in September of 2013. Began enrolling youth in the program in April of 2014.
- 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.
  - CCoT Retreat was held on April 24, 2015. 222 participants attended.
- 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/DHS presented at the DPI’s quarterly Transition Coordinator Network meeting regarding current employment-related initiatives and services.
- DVR/DPI/DHS continue to provide presentations regarding DVR services at the CESA 11 Wisconsin Statewide Transition Conference, Transition Academy, Employment 1<sup>st</sup> Conference, and the Wisconsin Rehabilitation 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 October which focused on College and Career Ready for transition age youth. Approximately 550 people attended this event.
- DPI/TIG supported Community-Based Integrated Employment pilots.
- DPI/TIG supported schools to engage in transition planning using the TIP.
- DPI/TIG worked to develop and disseminate information about Project SEARCH.
- DPI/TIG participated in Academic Career Planning (ACP) activities.
- DPI supported district knowledge of PROMISE through letters that went out to targeted districts.
- DPI presented at a PROMISE staff meeting to support understanding of district requirements.
- DPI presented on PROMISE to the Special Education Council.
- DPI supported the use of the Transition Improvement Plan (TIP) <http://wsti.org/tip.html>. The TIP uses NSTTAC's national 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 continued use of a new Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) application for all school district to document the IEP transition plan for students with disabilities. After three years, Wisconsin has

maintained close to 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.**

- 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 collaborated with other discretionary grant initiatives to present informational sessions for youth and families members around the state.
- DPI discretionary grant funds were used to conduct the Transition Improvement Grant (TIG) Transition Academy in October, which focused on College and Career Readiness.
- DVR/DPI/DHS participated and presented at the Transition Academy in October that focused on College and Career Ready for youth with disabilities.
- 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>
- 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 effect 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 TIG, 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/CCoTs 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://dwdworkweb.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr/pdf\\_files/transition\\_state\\_data.pdf](http://dwdworkweb.dwd.state.wi.us/dvr/pdf_files/transition_state_data.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 was in 7 communities in WI in 2013 and has placed several transition age youth in integrated community jobs. Project SEARCH will also be expanding to up to 20 new sites

through 2017.

- DPI is working in conjunction with Project SEARCH to share information with schools and family members about the option and benefits.
- 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 was awarded in Oct. of 2013 and enrollment began in April of 2014.
- 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.
- DVR and DPI discussions have occurred to review the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act and the requirements for Pre-Employment Transition Services and Section 511: Limitations on use of Subminimum Wage.