Supporting Youth with Disabilities through Interagency Collaboration

Department on Disability Services & DC International PCS
Today’s Agenda

➡️ The “ABC’s” of DDS
  – Overview of the DC Department on Disability Services
  – Youth Transition / Pre-Employment Transition Services under WIOA
  – Eligibility Requirements & Referral Process for DDS services

➡️ Interagency Collaboration
  – Recommendations / Best Practices from NTACT / WINTAC
  – Examples of Cross-Agency Collaboration with LEAs
    • DC International PCS – Mr. Chris Nace, Transition Coordinator
    • Maya Angelou PCS – Ms. Deborah Squire, Transition Specialist

➡️ Additional Resources
  - Department of Employment Services (DOES-OYP)
  - Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)
  - Local & National Youth Transition Resources
Mission of DDS:

To provide innovative, high quality services that enable people with disabilities to lead meaningful and productive lives as vital members of their families, schools, workplaces, and communities in every neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

**DDA**
- Developmental Disability Administration
  - Responsible for the oversight and coordination of services / supports provided to qualified persons with *Intellectual Disability (ID/D)* in D.C.

**RSA**
- Rehabilitation Services Administration
  - Provides vocational and rehabilitative services to *individuals with disabilities* to help them prepare for, secure, or retain *employment*.

**DDD**
- Disability Determination Division
  - Determines eligibility for Social Security Income/SSDI and related benefits.
Youth Transition Services

DCMR defines “youth” as young adults ages 14-24
Youth Transition Services
(Available to all DDS/RSA clients)

- Counseling and Guidance
- Assessments (psychological, vocational, assistive technology, etc.)
- Job Placement
- Provision of Assistive Technology
- Supported Employment
- Financial support for postsecondary education and/or training*
- Development of Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Benefits Counseling
Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for STUDENTS ages 14-22

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Counseling on Post-secondary Education / Training
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy
Work-Based Learning Experiences
Type of Pre-ETS service available for students ages 16-22

- WDC Program@RTEC
- ProjectSEARCH Program@CAH
- CVS Externship Program
- General Explorations / High School Internship Program (HSIP)
- CEO Academy Program
- Career Preparatory Program (CPP)
- DC3C Alternate Spring Break Program
- Jumpstart (MBSYEP) Program
Benefits of Youth Transition Services

- Decrease gaps in services between exiting secondary education and post-secondary employment;
- Preparation and engagement of youth in post-secondary training programs; and
- Focused plans for employment that result in earlier attainment of long-term employment goals.

Only 26% of students with disabilities are employed after high school compared to almost 64% of their peers without disabilities (DoL 2013). Work experience has been identified as the most important predictor of post-school employment success for students with disabilities, regardless of disability or intensity of special education services.
Eligibility Requirements:
RSA Youth Transition Services

✓ The person is a student enrolled in an educational program between the ages of 14 and 24.

✓ The person has a documented disability with an IEP or a 504 plan.

✓ The documented disability presents a substantial impediment to employment.

✓ The student will benefit from VR services in becoming gainfully employed.
Eligibility Requirements for DDA - Developmental Disability Administration

The person is an adult (18+) and has an Intellectual or Developmental (ID/D) Disability, documented prior to age 18.

IQ Score below 69.

The person faces challenges in at least three adaptive functioning abilities, documented prior to age 18.
RSA Referral Process

1. Scan completed form (and supplemental documentation) to RSA.Transition@dc.gov - The LEA can provide school records: Copy of IEP, Psychological Evaluation, Transcript, etc.

*Note - Parental consent is required on referral form for all students under age 18.

2. RSA will schedule an Intake Appointment at the school to interview / assess student.

3. If student is found eligible for services, VR counselor will develop an IPE.
InterAgency Agreements

Interagency Agreement Toolkit: https://www.transitionta.org/interagencytoolkit

This toolkit was developed jointly by WINTAC and NTACT (July 2017) to provide guidance on the development of the formal interagency agreement between the vocational rehabilitation (RSA) and education agencies, as part of the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).
InterAgency Agreements

Both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Rehabilitation Act, as amended by WIOA, require State Educational Agencies (OSSE) and VR agencies (DDS/RSA) to plan and coordinate transition services, as well as pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities through a formal interagency agreement.

Purpose:
Clearly specify the plans, policies and procedures for coordinating services to facilitate the transition of students to post-secondary life:

- Pre-ETS
- Technical Assistance / Consultation / Professional Development / Training
- Transition Planning
- Roles & Responsibilities including financial responsibilities to ensure FAPE
- Outreach / Identification of students with disabilities in need of transition services
- Coordination to satisfy the documentation requirements set forth in section 511 of Rehabilitation Act (SwD seeking sub-minimum wage employment) and assurance that neither SEA nor LEA will enter into an agreement for the purpose of operating a program under which SwD are engaged in work at subminimum wage
- Procedures for resolving interagency disputes under the agreement
Activity #1: Handout Discussion Prompts

Review the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) template between DDS/RSA and LEAs (DC Public Charter Schools). Use this as a discussion guide for the activity “Discussion Prompts for Implementation of an Interagency Agreement – Local Level”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Prompt</th>
<th>Local Education Agency (LEA)</th>
<th>Vocational Rehabilitation (RSA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
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<td>Technical Assistance</td>
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Interagency Collaboration Spotlight:
Department on Employment Services – DOES
4058 Minnesota Avenue NE, Suite 200, WDC 20019

• The Office of Youth Programs (OYP) develops and administers workforce development programs for District youth ages 14-24. OYP provides occupational skills training, work experience, academic enrichment and life skills training to facilitate the development of work habits and skills that are essential for success in the workplace.

• Contact: call 202-698-3492 or Email YouthJobs@dc.gov

• Open House: M,W,F 10am

OYP Programming

• Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute (MBYLI)
• YEALP Program
• Pathways Program
• WEX Program
• Mayor Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program
• High School Internship Program (HSIP)
• Apprenticeship DC
Department of Rehabilitation Services - DYRS
450 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

The **DYRS Education Office** provides support around these education-related matters:

- Suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary issues
- Drop-out prevention
- School enrollment
- General Education Development/(GED) referrals
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) interpretations
- College enrollment
- Referral for college support

**DYRS Office of Workforce Development (DYRS-OWD)**

DYRS-OWD focuses on **pathways for employment opportunities** for youth by building their knowledge, strengthening their skills and expanding their experience. Workforce development provides **hard and soft skills training, financial literacy and tools for educational advancement** with a specific focus on skillset development for in-demand fields that offer a livable wage.

- **Professional Certifications**
- **Maya Angelou YALC at New Beginnings YDC**

Contact: Call 202-251-5847 or email **DYRS@dc.gov**
DC International School inspires inquiring, engaged, knowledgeable and caring secondary students who are multilingual, culturally competent, and committed to proactively creating a socially just and sustainable world.

**Collaborations:** As a school, we collaborate with a number of agencies and organizations to support our students. The agencies include, RSA/DDA, DBH, OSSE, DOH, DCPS, and PCSB. Outside organizations DCI collaborates with are CityBridge, Ed Forward DC, Building Hope, New Schools Venture Fund, SchoolTalk DC, The Mecca Group, and the DC Special Education Co-Op.
Youth Transition Resources:

RSA Youth In Transition Toolkit:
- [http://www.dctransition.org/rsa/index.cfm](http://www.dctransition.org/rsa/index.cfm)

OSSE’s Secondary Transition Website:

NTACT PSE&T Preparation Toolkit:

List of RSA Counselors in the schools:
- [https://dds.dc.gov/node/741712](https://dds.dc.gov/node/741712)
Question Time!
Connect with DDS!

RSA Youth Transition Contact:
Email: RSA.Transition@dc.gov  Phone: 202-442-8645

Department on Disability Services
250 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
Phone: (202) 442-8400
TTY: (202) 442-8613
Office Hours: 8:15am-4:45pm (M-F)
Website: http://dds.dc.gov
Follow DDS on Facebook & Twitter!

For more information, please visit
www.dds.dc.gov