Autism Commission

Employment and 14-22 year old Sub-Committee Meeting

May 3, 2017, 11:00a.m. –1:00p.m.

500 Harrison Avenue

Present: Carolyn Kain, Michelle Brait, Julia Landau, Ilyse Levine, Lea Hill, Dian Bohannon, Todd Garvin, Michael Stepansky, Amanda Green, Judith Ursitti, Gary Hale, Margaret Van Gelder, Madeline Wenzel, and Kathleen Kelly

Remote access: Michael Plansky, Michael Weiner, Elana Aubrey, Coleman Nee and Maura Sullivan

Carolyn Kain stated that the meeting was subject to the Open Meeting Law and that the Sub-Committee members present would need to vote to approve the remote participation of some members because of their geographic location, whenever any members were utilizing video and/or tele-conferencing. Remote access was approved unanimously.

The minutes from the meeting on April 5th were reviewed and approved by this sub-committee.

Ms. Kain gave an update on a meeting with Kasper Goshgarian and Joan Phillips from MRC.

* MRC counselors do receive ASD training and it is provided by AANE
* Pre-ET’s is not held to the 20 hours of employability standard

Ms. Kain gave the committee an update on her meeting with DESE, Bureau of Transitional Planning, MRC and DDS. It was focused on the 688 process and this is the first of many meetings to gain a better understanding of the process to help guide families and schools. Questions that were raised during the meeting are as follows:

* How are parents being notified on what state agencies have to offer for services
* The word “Transition” is used at multiple points during the students exit from school and into adulthood – it can be confusing for families
* Has the system caught up with the new directives under the Omnibus Law
* Develop information for families to inform them about the process
* Are families eligible for services from both MRC and DDS
* Are families getting clear information about the services that are available to them while their student is still in school

Gary Hale from MRC discussed the Pre-ET’s process for students. It was asked if this committee could get a list of contracted agencies that are doing Pre-ET’s. Mr. Hale will follow up regard the list of agencies that they contract with.

* MRC has one application for both Pre-ET’s and adult services
* It was noted that DDS has 2 applications; one for children and one for adults
* You do not have to reapply for adult services if you were eligible under Pre-ET’s
* Councilors are looking at providing Pre-ET services to small groups while they are in high school (more efficient than 1:1)
* MRC is working on new marketing materials to explain Pre-ET’s and WIOA (Federation)
* MRC councilors can provide direct service or contract out to vendors
* Schools are not well versed about Pre-ET’s
* Councilors have a presence at each high school and should provide information to the school for families
* Councilor training is provided on an annual basis and Gary will gather more specific information on the trainings
* It was noted that under WIOA there is a requirement to work with individuals that have more severe disabilities

JVS and Triangle are both Pre-ET providers for MRC and described their experience. It is new for everyone and they discussed the work under their contract.

* They receive referrals from MRC but individuals can contact them directly
* There is a high percentage of individuals with ASD but they have always worked with the ASD population
* They have a good relationship with the employers
* Schools need to be part of the conversations
* They are working with more students with significant disabilities
* Triangle is working on better communication with families and providing more information
* Triangle would like to pilot trainings for families to better inform at younger ages (14/15)

**Proposed Changes MRC’s RFR (MAC)**

Julia Landau from Mass. Advocates for Children sent out proposed changes to MRC’s RFR for Pre-Employment Transition Services for Students, and Judith Ursitti also participated. Questions from this committee regarding the RFR and the comments were as follows:

* How much of the budget is allocated for Pre-ET’s and what is still available
* The proposed changes would be helpful in ensuring those providing services are trained to work with individuals with ASD
* Tracking ASD data would be helpful
* How to hold agencies responsible for working with individuals with ASD if the new language is added (to those who have been previously awarded a contract under the current RFR)
* Current RFR is more general in nature
* Should this sub-committee put its name behind the suggested changes to the RFR
* Other sub-committee members are welcome to respond regarding any changes to the RFR
* MRC has a copy of these proposed changes from MAC

There was conversation on the Autism Commission’s annual report and if this committee could pull out recommendations that relate to this age group that is in discussion. Could we look down the list and to see what has been acted upon, what needs action and should we add new recommendations. We can work on the foundation that was already created. Ms. Kain said we could review and discuss recommendations from the October 2016 report in our upcoming meetings.

**Check List for Transition Services**

Ms. Ursitti had sent out two links for review and discussion.

Connecticut's Transition Check List:  [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/special/transition\_planning\_iep\_checklist\_.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.sde.ct.gov_sde_lib_sde_pdf_deps_special_transition-5Fplanning-5Fiep-5Fchecklist-5F.pdf&d=DQMFAw&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=YTJ62Ghxwsfr96QRg62bhT5g0lRxBtuEwDR-AIZ94Oo&m=fsBEhfcrJg4WvTOhgeBr1FO0KyRiFjDSJT76VxPhe-c&s=LnNITtloU-7_3WKASsG6SlGB_J-XYgg8d2-D-ywFQjA&e=)

Connecticut's Transition Bill of Rights: [http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/digest/transition\_bill\_of\_rights\_memo.pdf](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.sde.ct.gov_sde_lib_sde_pdf_digest_transition-5Fbill-5Fof-5Frights-5Fmemo.pdf&d=DQMFAw&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=YTJ62Ghxwsfr96QRg62bhT5g0lRxBtuEwDR-AIZ94Oo&m=fsBEhfcrJg4WvTOhgeBr1FO0KyRiFjDSJT76VxPhe-c&s=RvFXKdptqy4Z_85gS1Jb_X0x62wUrboXUfnyEEtG3n0&e=)

Ms. Kain asked if we could table this conversation to flush out the 688 process first. We need bigger questions answered and we need input from DESE.

B-SET is working on a flow chart of the 688 process to help inform districts and is also working on creating a check list for families as part of the IEP process during transition years. This committee will engage in conversations with B-SET around their work.

There is currently work being done to develop a new IEP and rather than having a checklist, transition could be built in as part of the IEP. There will need to be consideration on not making it too lengthy but a simplistic way to get information out. Ms. Kain said that we also need to look at what other school systems are doing around transition. Amanda Green had pulled data from Indicator 14 (post-school outcomes) from other states and found that Massachusetts had the best outcomes. The Department of Education is on board with getting the information to families and we need to find a balance on how to get the information out in a user friendly manner.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm. The next meeting for this sub-committee is scheduled for June 14th at 11:30a.m.