

## Shore Educational Collaborative Learning Series

### **Post-Secondary Transition Planning for Students With Disabilities**

The goal of these sessions is to provide professional development for staff to increase knowledge of their role in the transition planning process with students and families. Topic areas can be expanded or revised based on identified needs. *Note: PDPs will be awarded upon completion of the series.*

#### **Session 1 – Transition Planning: What Is It?**

There are many roles, responsibilities, relationships, and learning opportunities involved in the transition planning process. This workshop will explore the purpose, definitions and IDEA 2004/ MA DESE mandates involved in ‘Transition Planning’, review the roles of all involved in supporting each student’s transition, and identify strategies to ensure that every student on an individual education plan (ages 14-22) has a viable transition plan to assist in preparing for his/her future in college, career, and/or community life.

#### **Session 2 – Universal Design for Transition**

The goal of this workshop is to identify and understand the “how to’s” of the transition process. The books that will be referenced during this session include ‘*Universal Design for Transition – A Roadmap for Planning and Instruction*’ Thoma, C., Brook Publishers, 2008, ‘*Preparing Students with Disabilities for College Success: A Practical Guide to Transition Planning*’; Shaw, S and J. Madeus, Brookes Publishing 2010, ‘*Guidance and Career Counselors’ Toolkit: Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Post-Secondary Options*’ George Washington University Heath Resource Center 2006; and ‘*School Days to Pay Days*’, Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, 2010, among others. This workshop will enable participants to explore ‘best practices’ in creating effective transition plans and to transfer this knowledge acquired from the texts to ‘real life’ situations.

#### **Session 3 – Institute of Community Inclusion and Other State/National Transition Planning Initiatives**

In this session, participants will learn about multiple transition projects spearheaded by the Institute of Community Inclusion (ICI), especially focusing on the Massachusetts Partnership for Youth in Employment (MPYE) and the National Collaboration of Workforce and Disability/Youth’s (NCWD/Y) principles, standards, and guideposts for success. In addition, an overview of useful resources, assessments, organizations, and networks involved in providing hopeful outcomes for young adults with disabilities will be shared (and built upon, using participant knowledge and contributions). Participants will learn about the 688 referral process, community-based transition strategies, and other student/family transition topics and supports available through state agencies, the Federation for Children with Special Needs and DCDT. Opportunities will be provided to share or create effective transitional practices using case studies involving students with a variety of learning and/or disability profiles.

#### **Session 4 – Person-Centered Planning and Self-Determination**

In this workshop, participants will learn how to enhance the transition planning process with students and families, how to develop a collaborative network that is ‘student-centered’ or ‘person-centered’, how to assist each student in developing ‘self-determination’ skills that can assist in defining a vision for the future, as well as the steps and relationships necessary for reaching competency and personal goals. Also during this workshop, participants will learn to integrate (1) ‘College and Career Readiness Skills’ and ‘21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills’ into transition planning, (2) strategies for building employability and technical skills, (3) development of individualized student ‘Post-Secondary Transition Portfolios’, and (4) encouragement of student contribution within community-based and employment-related activities in preparation for transition to post-secondary training and/or work experiences.

#### **Session 5 – Putting It All Together: Hope for the Future**

This workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss how the strategies learned in the past four sessions have been/could be applied in the classroom/community/work-place with each participant’s students and families. By this final workshop, participants will have a transition planning guidebook to use as a resource with students and families within classrooms, school-based opportunities, work-based activities, and community-based exploration within the context of each student transition plan. Participants will share examples of what worked in their classrooms, schools, districts, and communities and take information back that they have learned from others across all districts and disciplines. Future opportunities and directions will be explored.

