



CT SECONDARY TRANSITION **YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD**

**Connecticut's Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board:
Every Voice Matters**

Youth Leadership to Sustain Efforts

National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)

Capacity Building Institute (CBI)

May 9, 2019





Presenters

Michael Scanlon, Youth Advocate and Outreach Specialist, CT STRONG, Advanced Behavioral Health, Inc. and Youth Advisory Board CORE Team Member, mscanlon@abhct.com

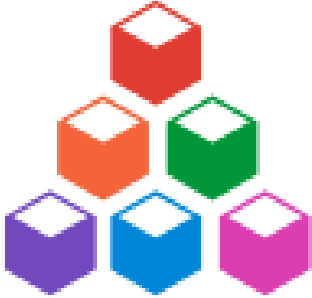
Emily Ball, Youth Speaker, Disability Specialist, and Youth Advisory Board CORE Team Member, emily317@gmail.com

Denver Jones, Youth Advocate, Public Speaker, Youth Advisory Board Member, jonesdenver18@gmail.com

Jake Shumbo, Youth Speaker, Youth Advisory Board Member, Youth Advisory Council Member, State Advisory Council Member, jakeshumbo15@gmail.com

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Thank You!



NTACT

National Technical Assistance Center on Transition

CT Secondary Transition Community of Practice CORE Team Members/Supporters

Past Members:

Dr. Patricia Anderson
Patti Clay
Khampasong Khantivong
Scott Kupis
Lisa Paragone
Jessica Monahan
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Supporters:

Bryan Klimkiewicz
John Flanders

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Alycia Trakas
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Karin McMahon
Amy Norton
Nicholas Gelbar
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Karen Hensley
Tanya Lawrence
Jake Shumbo
Michael Scanlon
Allison Kopie

Beth Reel
Tim Doyle
Myra Scott
Andrew Arboe
Brian K. Smith



A word cloud featuring the phrase "thank you" in multiple languages. The central and largest text is "thank you" in blue. Other prominent words include "gracias" in red, "danke" in yellow, "merci" in blue, "obrigado" in red, "dziękuje" in green, "terima kasih" in blue, "sukriya" in green, "go raibh maith agat" in green, "teşekkür ederim" in green, and "ngiyabonga" in blue. Smaller words include "спасибо", "bedankt", "dank je", "kop khun krap", "arigato", "dakujem", "merci", "dank", "je", "michelson", "mochchakkeram", "kop khun krap", "arigato", "dakujem", "merci", "dank", "je", "michelson", "mochchakkeram", "kop khun krap", "arigato", "dakujem", "merci".

NTACT State Plan 2018

Focus Area: Student-Focused Planning Benchmarks

Goal: We will increase districts' knowledge of practices to increase student involvement in the transition planning process.

Increase % of students participating in/facilitating PPT (IEP) meetings.



NTACT

National Technical Assistance Center on Transition

NTACT State Plan 2018

Focus Area: Student Development Benchmarks

Goal: We will increase opportunities across the state for students with disabilities to participate in co-curricular, extracurricular, and community activities by creating a youth advisory board.



NTACT

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Jake Shumbo

“I want to leave you with this:

NEVER, EVER, I mean EVER underestimate
your students’ abilities,

Overestimate us!

Set high Goals!

Push yourself to push us.

Challenge us

Challenge yourself

Believe in your students

Believe.....In.....Your.....Self.”



Jake Shumbo

Hello, my name is Jake Shumbo.

At age 13, I sustained a traumatic brain injury.... **A...WHOLE...NEW..WORLD** was opened up to me....

A world where the easiest tasks became monumental.

In this new world, I could either stay quiet and let decisions be made without me.....

or I could **speak up** and be an advocate for myself.

I chose the latter.

I didn't do this alone.

I've had amazing support from my family,

Jake Shumbo

my team in high school...

and now at my transition program at LEARN in East Lyme, CT.

I **have** a voice.

I now **lead** my PPT meetings.

I am **fully** supported.

Being part of the PPT and the planning discussions

is **so** important,after all... it is all about **ME!**

Jake Shumbo

Since I do have a great support structure. I've been exposed to different leadership opportunities.

- I'm a member of the CT ..Youth ...Advisory... Board –which has allowed me to be part of this **amazing** conference.
- I'm a student representative on the State of Connecticut Special Advisory Committee for Special Education – working with officials from all over the state on topics that impact Special Education
- I was a presenter at the 2018 Back to School Conference for **ALL** Connecticut Special Education Directors and Administrators – where I shared my thoughts on the importance of the student voice.

It really makes me proud to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of students that might not have the chance.

Jake Shumbo

- PLEASE, **NEVER** give up on your child or student.
- **Listen** to what they have to say, and make.. them.. part.. of the planning process
- This is **their** future; **they** should be part of it!
- Give them the opportunity and chance to speak up for themselves
- Ask them questions, and more importantly, **HEAR** their answers
- Don't ever assume to know what they want
- Support and **empower** them!

Jake Shumbo

I'll stop for now even though I could probably go on all day!

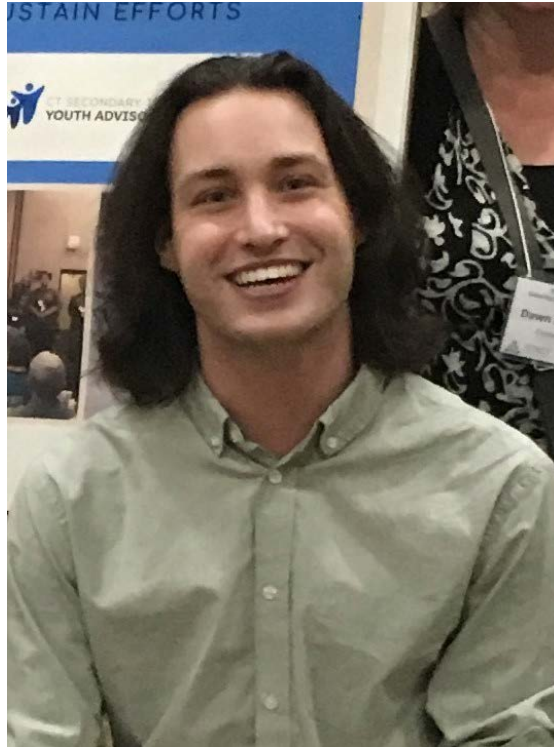
Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you...AND Thank you for listening.

It is an honor to be here representing the CT Youth Advisory Board.

Denver Jones



Michael Scanlon



Michael Scanlon

- **Mental Health and Disability Advocate**
- **School experiences**
 - Trauma - “invisible” struggles
 - Had both mainstream and alternative k-12 education
- **Leadership - honor your way of showing up**
- **Supporting student leadership and voice**
 - Honor your leadership style. No one way of leadership
 - Take into account follow through and reasons why behind decisions
- **Encouraging youth to the planning table**
 - Have the mindset of a hosting a party (creating an environment that is comfortable)

Emily Ball

<https://youtu.be/hZowtOYCLi8>



Questions?



Contact Information

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<p>CT Transition Community of Practice www.cttransition.org</p>		