Pathways to Success: Transitioning into Tomorrow Together

2017-18 National Community of Practice (COP) Webinar Series

Youth Engagement/Self-Advocacy Practices

April 18, 2018


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The National Community of Practice on Secondary Transition

The National Community of Practice on Secondary Transition is a group of various stakeholders from states and organizations across the United States who work collaboratively to ensure appropriate transition outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities.
Agenda

- Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network (PYLN) – A Model for Success
  Everett Deibler – Lehigh Carbon Community College
  Ali Hrasok – Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living

- Maximizing Connections for Youth in Employment
  Randy Loss – Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC)

- Self-Advocacy Practices/Youth Engagement
  Michelle Sturm-Gonzalez – Sweetwater Union High School District, Chula Vista, CA

PYLN - A Model for Success

PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK
Where it Started

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Need for long-lasting youth group

Adult allies helped form small group of youth with disabilities
- Promote self-advocacy
- Youth-led, youth-driven
Overtime PYLN...

Built relationships with:
- Schools
- Agencies
- Professionals
- Youth

Became a trusted organization for youth voice

What PYLN Has Done
Presentations and Trainings

Covering *all* populations
- Youth
- Parents
- Professionals

Different modalities
- Webinars
- National Leadership
- Policy

Grants

Youth Statewide Initiatives
- PA Statewide Independent Living Council; Abilities in Motion

Transitions Discoveries
- PADDC, Temple University, George Washington University

Leadership Development in Schools
- LVCIL, PADDC
Where PYLN is Going

Youth-Led, Youth-Driven Re-structuring

Adding
- Inclusive leadership
- Groups

The process
- Focused on needs and new ideas
- Began reaching out to partnerships
- Used Feedback to create new structures
The Mission

The **Mission** of the Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network is to coordinate a network that is **led** and **driven** by **inclusive** organizations of **youth** and **young adults with and without** disabilities across Pennsylvania.

PYLN **promotes** advocacy, self-determination, leadership, empowerment, and service Learning in **areas of** transition, employment, education, and community engagement.

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The Structure

**Three** Parts:

1. **Governing Board**
   - Who are they:
     - **Inclusive** group of young adults (18-35)
     - **Currently** – governing board members from the last **few** years
     - **Eventually** – Affiliate group members (**youth rep**)
   - What they do:
     - **Coordinate the network**
     - **Continue to train, advocate, and empower.**

2. **Affiliate Groups**

   They must:
   - Be an established or new group that does work related to the PYLN mission
   - Be youth **and/or** young adults (middle school-35)
   - Strive for inclusion
   - Complete 2 projects annually

   The receive:
   - Technical Assistance
   - Affiliate-only website
   - Opportunities
The Structure

3. **Supporting Partners**
   - These are the agencies or individual stakeholders support the mission of PYLN
   - Try to align with those who are working on youth initiatives, work with families, etc.
     - Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
     - Centers for Independent Living
     - Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center
     - PA Department of Education

Where Are We Now
Year Two

Increasing number of Affiliate groups
Establishing procedure and developing infrastructure
Establishing methods and activities for communication, collaboration, and leadership
Strengthening partnerships and collaborations with other agencies

Watching the youth learn and grow as leaders...

www.pyln.org

Follow us on Facebook: Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network

Follow us @thePYLN on Twitter and Instagram

To contact the PYLN Governing Board directly, email us at pyln.gb@gmail.com
What is PYLN?

- Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network
- PYLN is a group in our school that was formed out of greater slater
Mission Statement

- Our mission is to strive to bring our community together as one through at least one community project a year.

How it came to be

- PYLN was formed out of greater slater and the hearts of some caring students.
- Greater Slater started when we were in middle school.
- It was unorganized, with short meetings in homeroom and scattered ideas.
How it came to be continued

- Greater Slater really bloomed and we wanted something similar in high school.
- Ms. Serulneck came to us with the idea of PYLN

What we did this year

- 3/22/16: We met with LVCIL (Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living)
- 4/16/16: We made and sold cake pops and pie pops and did an autism walk and gave around 400 dollars to Autism Speaks
- 4/30/16: We held our first annual Freewheeler basketball game
What we did this year continued

- 5/4/16: We went to the Iron Pigs education day baseball game
- 5/11/16: We met with the middle school principle to see what we could bring to the middle school.
- End of May: Power point of celebrity's with disabilities

Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC)

Maximizing Connections for Youth in Employment

Randy Loss, M.A., CRC

National Community of Practice on Secondary Transition
Webinar Series
April 18, 2018
Equipping Leaders to Better Prepare Children & Youth for College, Careers, & Citizenship

The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) accomplished its work through three centers that address crucial pillars of success required for young people and their communities to succeed:

1. Connecting community with public education to support the learning and development of young people.
2. Building more effective pathways into the workforce to help all young people transition to adulthood.
3. Preparing generations of leaders to drive cooperative efforts at all levels.

iel@iel.org  www.iel.org  202-822-8405

What is the Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Technical Assistance Center (Y-TAC)?

Y-TAC is led by:

Y-TAC Partners with:

- Cornell University ILR School’s Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability
- Boston University’s School of Education
- Subject Matter Experts from across the field
What are the Y-TAC’s Goals?

Y-TAC seeks to increase the capacity of state VR agencies to improve the postsecondary education and competitive integrated employment outcomes of youth with disabilities.

In order to achieve this, state VR agencies will be supported in:

- Identifying the needs of youth with disabilities (focusing on out of school youth);
- Establishing partnerships with state & local agencies; and
- Having effective outreach plans, training plans, & methods of delivering support services.

Objectives

Participants will learn:

- Who opportunity youth are;

Participants will feel:

- Comfortable identifying opportunity youth;

Participants will be able to:

- Design strategies to support opportunity youth using customized employment concepts and Guideposts to Success.
Opportunity Youth

Who are they?
Where are they?
How can we support them?

Out of School Youth (OSY)

- 16-24, not in school, not working
- School dropout
- Of compulsory age but has not attended school for the last quarter
- Has a diploma AND is low-income AND is basic skills deficient OR English Language Learner (ELL)

Opportunity Youth

Out of School Youth (OSY)
- Involved in juvenile or adult justice systems
- Homeless, foster care, aged out of foster care, Social Security Administration (SSA) eligible, OR out-of-home placement
- Pregnant or parenting
- Individual with a disability
- Low income AND requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program OR to secure/hold employment


Opportunity Youth

In School Youth (ISY)
- 14-21 and attending school
- Are a family that is low-income; AND
- Meets one or more of the following conditions:
  - Basic skills deficient
  - ELL
  - Involved in juvenile or adult justice systems
  - Homeless, foster care, aged out of foster care
  - Pregnant or parenting
  - Individual with a disability
  - Person who requires assistance to enter or complete an educational program OR to secure/hold employment

Guideposts for Success

http://www.ncwd-youth.info/guideposts

- School-Based Preparatory Experiences
- Career Preparation and Work-Based Learning
- Youth Development and Leadership
- Connecting Activities
- Family Involvement and Supports

Youth Engagement and Support for Success

Customized Employment and Peer Mentoring
Customized Employment

- WIOA definition
- Flexibility
- Funding
- Outcome


Customized Employment Essential Elements

1. Overview of Customized Employment
2. Conducting Discovery and Creating Discovery Documents
3. Planning for Customized Employment
4. Employment Development Representation

Mentoring/Peer Mentoring

- Trust
- Formalized, structured activities
- Youth with caring individuals
- Guidance, support, and encouragement
- Competence and character
- Peer to peer

http://www.mentoring.org/why-mentoring/mentoring-impact/

Peer Mentor Resources


QUESTIONS

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For more information, contact us at VRY-TAC@iel.org
http://iel.org/vryouth-tac
References


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If you haven’t done so already and are interested/able to participate in our May meetings
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCOPT-5-18

May 14, 2018 - 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM - Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, Denver, CO
Continuing Our Collaboration – The National Community of Practice on Secondary Transition – (Please note that the May 14th meeting will only occur as a face to face meeting without a virtual connection)
- Intro to CoP
- Authentic stakeholder engagement
- Dialogue/activity – partners, engagement strategies
- Maintaining healthy collaboration – strategies to sustain efforts focused on outcomes
- State/local collaborative structures

May 15, 2018 - 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM - Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, Denver, CO
- Small group discussions/resource sharing document regarding the following topics. (Note that the individuals participating virtually will have their own meeting regarding these topics online)
  - Career Development leading to Competitive Integrated Employment
  - Pathways to Post-Secondary Education and Training
  - Self Advocacy