



Envision the Future...

Transition from School to Adult Life

Saturday March 29, 2008
8:00 – 5:00

Cosponsored by

The National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI),



The New England Center Deafblind Project (NEC)



and Perkins School for the Blind.

This conference on transition planning for students who are visually impaired, blind or deafblind, including those with additional disabilities, offers a wide array of session topics and exhibitors. Parents & families, teachers & other professionals, service providers and students are encouraged to attend. General information, as well as state specific information, related to transition planning, the adult service system and resources will be provided for the New England states and New York.

Held in the Howe Building on the campus of the Perkins School for the Blind
For additional information: www.Perkins.org

General Information

- Registration is due March 14, 2008.
- Conference fee is \$25 per person. (Make checks payable to Perkins School for the Blind.)
- Continental breakfast and lunch are provided.
- Registration will be held in the Howe Building.
- Child care is not provided.

Agenda

8:00 Registration

8:00- 5:00 Exhibits

**9:00 – 9:30 Keynote – Key Things to Learn Today to Guide Transition Planning Tomorrow
Janet LeBreck, Commissioner, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind**

We are pleased to have Janet LaBreck, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, be our keynote speaker. Janet has many years of experience in the adult service realm as a Vocational Counselor and Supervisor of services spanning the ages. Janet is an accomplished professional who teaches on the college level, serves on many social service boards, and always is making connections that will be of benefit to clients and families. The whole person's needs from training to work to health care to housing and living a full and rewarding life are all important considerations.

9:45-10:45 Concurrent Session A

10:45-11:15 Coffee break / exhibits

11:15-12:15 Panel Discussion – Components of an Effective Transition

Transition plans for ALL levels of students have common components which are essential for the journey from school to adult life. The transition process involves many people along the way. Members of this most critical team must work closely together to address the various “moving parts” of a plan. This panel presentation will represent the perspectives of a young adult who is blind, a parent, a school, an agency and a health care provider. Come learn what to consider from people who have been down this road and experienced the bumps, the turns and the wide open road.

12:30-1:30 Lunch / Exhibits

1:30-2:30 Concurrent Session B

2:45-3:45 Concurrent Session C

4:00 Closing Remarks

4:15 – 5:00 Exhibits

Agenda (continued)

Concurrent Session A

A1 State Agency Resources

This session will provide participants with an overview of adult services in the Northeastern States (MA, CT, NH, NY, ME, RI, VT). State Agency staff will provide participants with information regarding the responsible adult agencies in the state as well as an overview of the array of services available. Each state will present information simultaneously in breakout sessions and participants will choose the appropriate presentation to attend.

Concurrent Session B

B1 Estate Planning

This workshop will explore the unique financial issues families face as their loved ones with significant special needs approach adulthood and the balance of their lives. Common pitfalls and possible solutions will be discussed with fictional case studies.

B2 Person-Centered Futures Planning

Presented by Cate Weir, ATECH the director of the NH Vision/Hearing Network.

Person Centered Futures Planning is a philosophy and set of tools to use when assisting individuals to look forward in their lives and develop meaningful and do-able plans for their future. It is a tool that is particularly useful during times of transition. The presentation will cover the basic philosophy of Person-Centered Personal Futures Planning, and will review some of the tools available to offer this planning approach to young adults planning for the transition from high school to adult life. Strategies and practical resources will be shared.

B3 Options for Living

Presented by Anne Lane, Real Estate Broker who has specialized in housing for people with disabilities for over 20 years.

This presentation takes a creative approach to identifying housing resources. Through the use of person centered planning, strategies will be offered to investigate and explore the myriad of financial and housing resources available to individuals, families, non-profits and communities. Programs such as Section 8, housing modification loan programs and housing subsidies will be outlined as part of this presentation.

B4 Technology and Transition: What you Need to Know

Presented by Jim Denham

Technology solutions, when properly used, can have a huge impact on increasing the independence of persons with disabilities. This presentation will highlight some of the recent developments in the world of assistive technology and explain how they can benefit students during the transition process. Recent developments in screen reading applications, accessible personal digital assistants, refreshable Braille and optical character recognition (OCR) technology will be discussed and demonstrated.

B5 Creating Vocational Portfolios for Adolescents

Presented by Wendy Bridgeo and Christa Gicklhorn

The purpose of this presentation is to provide information about the value that vocational portfolios can serve in the transition process. The School-to-Work Program at Perkins school for the Blind has been developing vocational portfolios for adolescent students for 10 years and has seen the important role the portfolio can play in the transition process. This presentation will cover the how-to's of developing a vocational portfolio and provide specific examples and format that the Perkins team has found successful. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of the role of pictures and video and helpful hints for including these types of media into the portfolio development.

Agenda (continued)

Concurrent Session C

C1 College Options

Presented by Linde D'Andrea, Perkins Vocational Planning Instructor, Peg Beck, Social Worker Transition, Program, Middlesex Community College, Erica Costa: current college student , Bridgewater State and Ann Seavey, Gordon College Support Center Representatives

The focus of this session will be on students who may be college-bound or pursuing other post-secondary education options. The panel of presenters will include the high school educator perspective, the student perspective and the college support perspective. The discussion will include a focus on considerations for selecting a school, what supports are needed, technology and instructional needs, expectations in terms of study and independent living skills.

C2 Post-Educational Training Opportunities

This session will highlight a variety of opportunities for training after completing school. These options can provide a wide array of experiences ranging from structured residential training programs, to intensive job skill specific training, to exposure to many roles, to community involvement, to expansion of personal life skills and more. Out of state programs may open up a wider employment field. This presentation will complement the exhibits that are open all day.

C3 What Parents Need to Know About Employment for Students with Visual Impairments, Including Those with Multiple Disabilities

Presented by Patricia Cox and Sue Rawley

Come and learn what your role as a parent should be in preparing your child for employment in their future. This presentation covers your child's legal rights, an overview of transition services, resources available to you, and the importance of the family in laying the foundation for successful employment. Presented by two parents of children with visual impairments and NAPVI Board Members: Patricia Cox (TVI/COMs), At-Large Representative and Sue Rawley, New England Regional Representative.

C4 Social Security – What Do I Need to Know?

This workshop will focus on the incentives or supports developed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to assist people with disabilities to enter the workforce. The intent is to diminish the consequences and fears about losing benefits due to an attempt to work. Recently, there have been a number of changes to the Social Security disability programs that make it even easier for people who receive benefits to go to work. SSA has also recently made other changes that increase the amount of money someone can earn before benefits are affected.

C5 Panel Discussion: It's Not Just Keyboarding Anymore—Career Options for Technically Minded Students

The current technology industry has a wide variety of career choices for persons with disabilities. This discussion will highlight some of the major career paths within this industry and provide some insight as to what type of background and skills are necessary for each type of job. The discussion will be led by individuals with disabilities who have worked in a variety of positions in the technology arena.



Envision the Future...

Transition from School to Adult Life

Registration (one form per person)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (cell) _____ (work) _____

Email _____

- Student Parent Teacher Service Provider Agency

Accommodations:

Interpreter: Language _____

Sign Language Interpreter

Braille Large Print

Special dietary needs: _____

I request housing. (Limited shared housing is available for \$35 per person per night.)

Please note that child care is not provided.

Please check the sessions that you are interested in (indicate 1st and 2nd choice):

Session B

B1.

B2.

B3.

B4.

Session C

C1.

C2.

C3.

C4.

Please return this form with the registration fee of \$25 per person by March 14, 2008

Perkins Training Center
175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472
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Perkinstrainingcenter@perkins.org



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