

Fall 2013

Quarterly Meeting Updates



NORTH CAROLINA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ALLIANCE

NC PSE Alliance

PSEA Public Awareness Committee

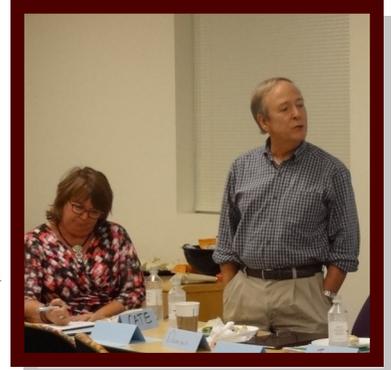
PSE Alliance member, Duncan Munn has formed a Public Awareness Committee to strengthen efforts across the state. The committee will help provide a consistent message to a variety of audiences about postsecondary education for students with I/DD including what PSE is and is not, why it is important, and why it is important for the state of North Carolina to support future PSE initiatives.

Other members include Kelly Bohlander (NCCDD), Beverly Colwell (NC DPI), Daphne

Martin (ACT at WPCC), Seb Prohn (UP at WCU), Ellen Russell (NCCDD), Cate Weir (Think College), and Donna Yerby (CIDD).

The first task of the Public Awareness Committee is to create a PSE fact-sheet that will provide an overview of statistics related to PSE as well as highlight success stories. The fact sheet will include information about students with I/DD in middle school and high school who need

to be targeted, a history of PSE in North Carolina, and some key characteristics of postsecondary education opportunities.



Cate Weir, Coordinator, Think College; Duncan Munn, Chair, Public Awareness Committee

Dave Richard, Director of the NC Division of Mental Health/ Developmental Disabilities/ Substance Abuse Services

Dave Richard, Director of NC DMH/DD/SAS within the NC Department of Health and Human Services, led a discussion on the challenges the system currently faces and how to address them. One goal for the spring is changes to the waiting list for services for the I/DD population.

He also discussed vocational programs and the importance of tracking outcomes in order to sustain meaningful efforts.

Mr. Richard invites the community to make him

aware of questions or concerns and emphasizes the importance of your feedback. He can be reached by email at dave.richard@dhhs.nc.gov, or by phone, (919) 733-7011.



Dave Richard, Director of NC DMH/DD/SAS leads a discussion on how changes in the NC DMH/DD/SAS may affect services and supports. From left, Wilson Finks, Donna Yerby, Deb Zuver, CIDD.

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PSE Opportunity in the East: P.A.C.E at the College of the Albermarle!

Pathways to an Accessible College Experience (P.A.C.E) at the College of the Albermarle in Manteo on the Outer Banks is up and running. Five students are enrolled in their first year. Renate Macchirole, with the help of Tim Sweeney, Director of Transitional Studies at CoA, was instrumental in getting the program started. She reached out to the college and the community, attended the PSE Summit in Greensboro last year with other committee members, and helped the program launch in August. This year's cohort highlights access to older students and transition on a multitude of levels. The program is tailoring internships to student interests and take steps toward facilitating employment opportunities in the community.



Renate Macchirole talked about how support and enthusiasm were essential in starting the P.A.C.E. program at CoA. Renate also emphasized the critical collaboration with Seb Prohn of WCU and Daphne Martin of Western Piedmont Community College.

UNCG **Beyond Academics** students are pushing the envelope for student inclusion. One student successfully advocated to participate this year on the Club Lacrosse Team. Another is interested in joining the track and field team and fueling conversations and requiring reevaluating regulations.

Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program at Appalachian State University welcomes Anna Ward, new program coordinator, and one of their graduates, Courtney Bell, a volunteer support for the program. This fall, SDAP has doubled their enrollment this fall from 3 students to 6. For the first time, they welcome 2 students from out-of-state. They also now provides residential options for students to live on campus.

Western Carolina University Participant Updates

The University Participant program at Western Carolina University welcomes new Program Coordinator, Rebekah Norris. Previous coordinator, Kelly Kelley, has taken a faculty position and continues serving as a consultant for the UP program.

Kelly Kelley was awarded a grant from the NCCDD to promote planning for PSE opportunities through community involvement. Kelly paired up with a community advisory group of parents, students, and employers to focus on the importance of transition beginning in middle school. This grant will facilitate efforts in 3 school districts across the state.

Kenneth Kelty, a UP student at WCU won a travel scholarship to attend and participate on a panel at the American Evaluation Association conference in Washington D.C. The panel will discuss the importance of including individuals with I/DD in evaluation processes.



Seb Prohn and Kenneth Kelty at AEA

Changes at CPCC: Special Learning Needs

Central Piedmont Community College's Project Search and Transitions has their last cohort finishing the final two semesters before graduating in May. Beginning this fall, CPCC is offering the Special Learning Needs Program, housed in College and Career Readiness (formerly compensatory education). This new program is implementing new curriculum standards and has been welcomed by students and instructors.

The upcoming graduating class is preparing for next steps with employment as their goal; exploring career and educational opportunities within their internship sites, at CPCC, and in the greater Charlotte community.



Cate Weir, Coordinator, Think College, discusses the Inclusive Higher Education conference in November—see page 4 for more information!

Employment Update Panel

Sandy Ellsworth, Division of MH/DD/SAS, Jim Swaine, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Shayna Simpson-Hall, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, spoke about the transition to employment for students with I/DD.

Sandy Ellsworth discussed the transition to the Innovations waiver in North Carolina.

Jim Swaine talked about Vocational Rehabilitation's role in internship potential for students transitioning out of high school as well as adults. Jim also announced the developing relationships among busi-

nesses in the Charlotte region. Jim continues to work with the Department of Commerce and Labor to promote job connections for individuals with I/DD.



Shayna Simpson-Hall discussed how the Council is involved in Employment First initiatives by making the networking more accessible. Currently Project Search has 4 sites in North Carolina and is expanding to add six additional sites over the next 3-4 years. 65% of individuals who have graduated benefit from competitive employment. Lastly, Shayna discussed the importance of transition services in high school and the role they play in setting expectations and positive attitudes.

From left: Sandy Ellsworth (Division of MH/DD/SAS), Jim Swaine (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), & Shayna Simpson-Hall (NC Council on Developmental Disabilities) led the panel discussion.

Upcoming North Carolina Summit

Collaboration among the Institute for Community Inclusion and the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities is making the next statewide conference on post-secondary education and employment opportunities possible. This partnership will allow for collabora-

tion between the PSEA and the Reaching the Summit for Success conferences to be held in conjunction. Cindy Thomas, Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston is coordinating initial planning stages with Shayna Simpson-Hall at the NCCDD.

Ron Reeve, Chairman of the NCCDD, developed the Business Leadership Network chapter in Charlotte, and demonstrates commitment to "Employment First" across North Carolina. He supports this collaborative effort.

Member Updates

Alan Chase provided a video update about the Eye Retreat, a program that gives transition-age youths with visual impairments a college experience and mentions the disproportionate number of individuals with visual impairments attending and graduating college and reviews transition issues.

Nancye Gaj with the NC Community College System convened a panel of several PSEA members for the annual Basic Skills Conference and covered programs that are available to students with I/DD. She is also visiting community colleges across the state to address community needs as compensatory education is phased out for more inclusive transition opportunities.

Sybil Sutton discussed changes to Wake Tech Community College, which now offers Career Pathways. This semester, courses in Hospitality are being offered with computer troubleshooting being added in the spring and auto detailing in the summer. Currently 16 students are enrolled.



Welcome new CIDD Trainees to PSEA Team at CIDD!

**Susan Kermon LEND
Advocacy Trainee**

**Alexis Teplin, LEND
Advocacy Trainee**

**Ginger Walton, LEND
Policy Trainee**

This fall, the PSEA Team at the CIDD presents at three national conferences, the Southwest Disability Conference, TASH Conference, and the AUCD (Association for University Centers on Disabilities) Conference as well as state-level conferences; NC DPI-Exceptional Education and NC Counselors Conference, and the regional Summits of Success.

Upcoming conference!

November 16+17

in Washington DC

Inclusive Higher Education Conference: Moving from Good Ideas to Great Outcomes

Click here for conference schedule at a glance!

Registration deadline **November 1**. [Register here!](#)

We need your help!

PSE programs, if you have program updates that you would like added to your program profile on the NC PSEA website, please contact Adrienne Villagomez at Adrienne.villagomez@cidd.unc.edu with specific information or to set up a time to discuss any necessary changes to the information online for your community college or college/university.

Updates include but are not limited to:

- * Changes in contact information and administration
- * Updates on enrollment, graduation, and outcome data
- * Revisions to the program opportunities (e.g., classes and internships)
- * Additional information about campus opportunities.

Thank you!

Adrienne

Next Meeting: January 14, 2014 @ CIDD Noon to 3 P.M.

To be discussed:



2014 Capacity Building Summit Planning and Preparation

PSE Public Awareness Efforts

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