

Fall 2015



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

InFocus Advocacy and Photo Voice

Ginger Walton, director of InFocus Advocacy shared a video that included a montage of photos and quotes from people involved with postsecondary education for students with IDD. The goal of this project was to further give voice, advocate, and raise awareness of the benefits for postsecondary education opportunities for people of all abilities. InFocus has an ongoing project that accepts photos and stories of people's experiences all over the world. Art by CIDD Advocate Liaison McCafferty Kenmon is featured this month. Their next project will focus on the voices and pictures of siblings of children who have developmental disabilities. To learn more about this and other projects as well as to view the video montage and other productions, you can visit their website at: www.infocusadvocacy.org or their Facebook page: facebook.com/like.InFocusAdvocacy



Legislative Progress (Fall) Update: Session Law 2015-241

The Bill was passed through the General Assembly! Amendments were made to the final form.

Brief review of House Bill 921: *Educational Opportunities for People with Disabilities*

- Part One—*Elementary and secondary education*: Improve outcomes for students with disabilities and increase funding for this purpose;
- Part Two—*Postsecondary education*: Partnerships to identify and promote excellence in postsecondary options for youths with disabilities; interagency assessment of and plans for improving postsecondary options, including financial assistance for PSE.

Duncan Munn and **Holly Riddle** shared steps and responsibilities for the future as outlined in the unfunded bill. Reports outlining and highlighting the efficacy and progress of PSE will be constructed and sent to the Joint Legislative Education Committee from the DHHS. The first report is due November 15. The final bill was amended to include a language change of students with IDD to students with disabilities. Overall, the bill was crafted to allow for those entities directly involved with PSE to “Develop jointly complementary policies that promote long-term sustainability of PSE.” Legislators were very supportive of PSE and this bill. They recommend we return during the short session to continue to fight for future funding.

The bill is successfully raising awareness for postsecondary education for students with I/DD! More information can be found at <http://www.ncleg.net/>.

Learn more about the legislative process here: http://www.house.gov/content/learn/legislative_process/

New Developments and New Directions

For this Quarterly Meeting, we allotted time to gather and collaborate in four groups about issues pertaining to PSE. These groups specifically addressed the topics: Current Status / New Developments, Current Challenges, and Next Steps. The four groups consisted of: 1. Policy Focus (Facilitated by **Duncan Munn**), 2. Community College Changes (Facilitated by **Trudie Hughes**), 3. Family Involvement (Facilitated by **Betsy Crais**), and 4. Employment: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and PSE (Facilitated by **Stephanie Hanes**)

Putting it All Together

Policy Focus

Current Status: SL 2015-241 was passed! PSEA will help review reports due to legislature from DHHS. We need to develop a committee to oversee the five initiatives of the bill.

Challenges: How can PSEA become more involved? How to support a sustainable foundation for PSE in NC? How do we target needs without slowing down overall process? Which legislators can we ask for support?

Next Steps: We need to forge connections with legislators who supported bill. We need to help review and submit input for current and future reports. A PSEA committee can chart how PSEA can support the bill initiatives.

Community College Changes

Current Status: Caldwell CC has students in sheltered workshops and community classes. Cape Fear CC is interested in Pathways. Wake Tech offers academic classes and Pathways. College of Albemarle has PACE Program.

Challenges: Currently has a loss of students and lack of marketing to transitioning students. How to create Pathways. Marketing who we are.

Next Steps: More English as Foreign Language Gains. Rebuild and regroup with student base. Help students transitioning to GED, work, etc. Foster more curriculum and admin buy in to programs. Create clear orientation process to students. Create more hands-on experiences such as internships.

Group: Family Involvement

Current Status: Limited awareness from parents about PSE. Need to utilize ThinkCollege and other web resources to connect to PSE options.

Challenges: How to share info with parents early in the process. Reaching parents of young children during busy life schedules. Helping families to define their own dream for PSE. How to address parental fears and protectiveness. Increasing an awareness of financial support options.

Next Steps: Improving current fact sheet. Helping students become advocates in their IEPs. Self-Advocates presenting at conferences. Using the Transition grant to support outreach efforts. Collaborate with other organizations.

Employment: WIOA and PSE

Current Status: Witnessed an increase in people with disabilities being hired. Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) is funding programs for PSE-ready experiences. Employer driven initiatives in workforce development.

Challenges: Transportation concerns for people with disabilities. Benefits counseling needed (IE: coordinating SSDI and amount of hours worked). Creating awareness of available postsecondary programs. A need for employment outcomes research. Educating employers about disabilities in the work force.

Next Steps: PSEA will support peer mentorship, self-determination, and advocacy activities. PSEA should help promote the importance of benefits counseling.



Member Updates

Anna Ward reports that Appalachian State has been awarded TIPSID funding! The Scholars with Diverse Abilities Program (SDAP) will be collaborating with Caldwell Community College as a satellite moving forward with PSE programs at both locations. **Christie Arney** of Caldwell Community College reports that this collaboration allows students to access courses on both campuses.

Michele Hall stated that Wake Tech has applied to establish a Project SEARCH program which provides training through internships.

Bryan Dooley, board member of the Adaptables Independent Living Center in Winston-Salem, met with representatives from Beyond Academics (BA) to discuss collaboration between the YES program serving youths in local schools and BA. Mark Steele, Adaptables director, strongly supports PSE.



Kenneth Kelty spoke at the NC Recreational Therapy Association Conference in Wilmington about summer camp and recreational therapy programs becoming more inclusive. He reflected on his experiences as a UP participant at Western Carolina University.

Deb Zuver reported that a PSEA planning group continues to meet and strategize about a PSE program at UNC-Chapel Hill. The group includes representatives from Allied Health, School of Education, and the community.



Robyn Dorton announced that PSE graduates are welcome to participate in their local First in Families (FiF) board.

Emily Kertcher and **Deb Zuver** presented at Southwest Disability Conference in New Mexico about college opportunities as a civil right.

Donna Yerby reported that ACE (Accessible College Experience) at Western Piedmont CC was discontinued this fall with leadership at WPCC citing funding as an issue. ACE was the only community college in NC that was a Certified Transition Program (CTP). The PSEA will continue to support efforts to explore this issue further.

Freda Lee announced that the Council on Exceptional Children (CEC) promotes transition through the NC Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT). Grants provide seed money for transition efforts. For more information visit www.ncdedt.org The Lighthouse Award recognizes those across NC working towards transition for students with IDD.



“Reminder to save the date for the
Winter NC PSEA Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, January 26

Noon—3pm

CIDD Conference Room

A light lunch will be provided

Make a weekend of it!

Quarterly PSEA Meeting Evaluation Results

Well organized
and planned

Would like
member list and
organizations
represented

Need more time
to brainstorm
ideas about
concerns

Great collaboration

Enjoyed small
group discussions

Networking time
was valuable

Would like
more concrete
next steps

**Questions or
comments?**

Contact Deb Zuver

Deborah.zuver@cidd.unc.edu

919.962.3603

**Information and resources
can be found at**

www.cidd.unc.edu/PSEA

Call for Presentations:

The Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance
conference is scheduled for April 4 & 5, 2016!



To submit a Paper/Presentation, go to:

<http://southeasternpsealliance.weebly.com/2016-call-for-presentations.html>