

Winter 2016



QUARTERLY MEETING UPDATES

North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance

New Developments and New Directions

At the fall quarterly PSEA meeting, we took a portion of time to gather and collaborate in four groups about key PSE issues. Groups were divided by topics: Policy Focus, Community College Changes, Family Involvement, and Employment: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). At the winter meeting, we began with a review of these previous discussions and progressed to focus on action planning. Group discussion included: tasks, timeline, and point person.

[Note: Due to required SL 2015-241 updates, the Policy Focus committee, served by Holly Riddle's team at NC DHHS, was folded into those state-level efforts.]

Next Steps: Putting it All Together

Group: Family Involvement

Tasks: The group wants to: 1) Compile resources to reach guidance counselors, transition specialists, parent liaisons, and EC coordinators to provide a unified distribution of PSE opportunities in the community. 2) Access parent support groups through organizations such as the ARC and ASNC to provide presentations and/or webinars on the topic of transition. 3) Offer messages that enable parents to ask their children: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and themselves: "What are your hopes and dreams for your child?"

Timeline: TBD 2016

Point Persons: Betsy Crais; Ann Palmer

Group: Community College Changes

Tasks: The group wants to: 1) Understand the effect of recent changes in high school equivalent certification and how this positive change affects the IDD population. 2) Create and maintain a greater connection to the community. For example, develop sustaining partnerships with NC Works (who partner with WIOA) and NC Business Leadership Network (NC BLN) for pathways between school-career mentoring. 3) Provide open houses for parents and high school students to showcase potential. 4) Create collaboration opportunities with other community colleges to share and improve resources for developing career pathways.

Timeline: TBD 2016

Point Person: Trudie Hughes

Group: Employment -WIOA

Tasks: The group wants to: 1) Create community resources toolkit relating to employment training/opportunities. 2) Collaborate with local Vocational Rehabilitation offices and Project SEARCH and PATHSS. 3) Connect with local Chambers of Commerce and NC BLN.

Timeline: By Fall of 2016, have complete document of programs in NC that focus on employment.

Point Person: Lisa Pluff

Group Follow up: **Daya Patton** will survey local (Winston-Salem) VR about their resources for transition into the community. **Kathy Martinez** will create a summary of Cape Fear CC's Career Readiness Coordinators. **Allison Zoller** and **Deb Zuver** will connect with NCBLN. **Kenneth Kelty** will provide examples of and instructions for creating a video resume and online portfolio. **Deb Zuver** and **Robyn Dorton** will connect with VR regarding consideration for SSDI.

Legislative Update (Winter): Session Law 2015-241

Brief review of House SL 2015-241: *Educational Opportunities for Students 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.

As chair of the *Educational Opportunities for Students with Disabilities* Advisory Committee, DMH/DD/SAS policy advisor **Holly Riddle** updated the Alliance by listing current committee members. She explained that the first report to the NC Legislature:

- Addressed background information and target population
- Delineated the context of the provision
- Described state-wide innovations in postsecondary education for people with disabilities
- Addressed the role of common data indicators for tracking outcomes
- Considered resources and options for linking state-wide databases
- Outlined the implementation process of the provision.

The advisory committee is co-chaired by **Claudia Horn** (Senior Director of Employment Services, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation Services) and **Terri Shelton** (Vice-Chancellor of Research and Economic Development, UNCG). Other members include: **Courtney Cantrell** (Director, DMH/DD/SAS), **Jason Vogler** (Assistant Director, DMH/DD/SAS); **Stephanie Hanes** (Program Specialist, Transition and Employment Services, Division of Vocation Rehabilitation Services); **Kevin Kelley** (Child Welfare, Division of Social Services), **Danielle McConaga** (Coordinator, NC LINKS, Division of Social Services); **Bill Hussey** (Director, EC Division, Department of Public Instruction), **Beverly Colwell** (ID Consultant, Department of Public Instruction); **Joan Johnson** (Beyond Academics, UNCG); **Gilda Rubio-Festa**, **Trudie Hughes** (Community College System); **David Westling** (Director, University Participant Program, Western Carolina University), **Emily Furgang Kertcher** (CIDD-UNC); as well as nine other groups of members and alternates that represent “community stakeholders and other interested parties.”

While the bill is intended to address needs of all students with disabilities, it is expected to also raise awareness for postsecondary education for students with I/DD.

Find information at <http://www.ncleg.net/> and search for *Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities Legislative Report* or by clicking on this direct link: [November 2015 Report](#).



Member Updates

Betsy Crais, professor, Division of Speech and Hearing Services at UNC-CH, was excited to announce a new training grant for incoming Occupational Therapy, Speech, Language, and Pathology, and Special Education Masters students. This grant will provide funding for two sets of cohorts as they work with youth and their families in the community focusing on issues of transition.

Michele Hall stated that Wake Tech is planning for Project SEARCH to be implemented Fall 2016. **Trudie Hughes** announced that across the state, Asheville-Buncombe Tech, Central Piedmont CC, Robeson CC, and Southwestern CC have also implemented a Project SEARCH.

Deb Zuver reported about Community TYZE, a secure, online personal support network developed by the Upwards to Financial Stability team at the National Disability Institute. Community TYZE is designed to improve money management, asset development, and financial self-sufficiency. It is offered free of charge to a limited number of PSE programs in NC. Training on this innovative social media tool will be provided to: SDAP-App State, PACE-College of the Albemarle, and Cape Fear CC. In total, this program will accommodate 57 students.

Mandy Ernest, coordinator of Pathways at the College of the Albemarle (COA), shared that a hospitality curriculum was recently created with a focus on gaining employment experience. COA received a grant from the local Rotary Club for a community garden.

Bryan Dooley and The Adaptables Center for Independent Living in Winston-Salem are currently working on a curriculum that includes disability information and history. Bryan states that North Carolina passed a law requiring these topics be taught in the classroom. However, no standard curriculum is currently being offered.

Daya Patton announced the success of a district-wide transition fair in Winston-Salem. The fair had over 400 attendees. Another fair is scheduled for the fall and Daya is currently looking for vendors. The fair will accommodate students ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Donna Yerby reported efforts to implement a PSE program at UNC-CH are underway. A vision statement and program proposal are being drafted. The team includes **Betsy Crais, Emily Kertcher, Deb Zuver, Adela VanName** (PATHSS parent advocate), and **Sarah Lineberry** (CIDD trainee). **Harriet Able, Jennifer Diliberto, and Linda Mason** with UNC School of Education also participate.



Freda Lee stated that the CEC NC Division of Career Development and Transition Annual Conference will be held in Greensboro April 20-22.

McCafferty Kenmon stated that the CIDD is recruiting applicants for the LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) trainee position in Self-Advocacy for 2016-2017. This year-long interdisciplinary training is one of the few in the country to include Advocacy as a discipline with the cohort.

Allison Zoller, director of Persever8, announced a nine-month training pilot supported by local tech companies. The program provides opportunities for internships and work experience in the field. Persever8 is marketing to the next cohort of participants. Information can be found at: <http://www.persever8.org>

Vicky Valen is proud to announce that the first graduating class of ABE at Cape Fear CC in Wilmington will take place this April. The program collaborates with the New Hanover School System—providing classes for both students and parents. We welcome **Kathy Martinez** as Vicky Valen moves toward retirement.



Dogwood Days of Spring
PSEA 2016

*“Reminder to save the date
for the*

Spring NC PSEA Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, April 19

Noon—3pm

CIDD Conference Room

A light lunch will be provided

Quarterly PSEA Meeting Evaluation Results

The Action Steps are great and important for forward progress!

The working group format is wonderful for making real change!

Group breakout sessions were extremely beneficial!

**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

Remember to Register!

**The Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance
conference scheduled on April 4 & 5, 2016!**



For conference information, visit:

<http://southeasternpsealliance.weebly.com>