

# ***Interagency Transition Advisory Board***

## **MINUTES**

September 21, 2006

Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services

Las Vegas, Nevada

### **ROLL CALL AND QUORUM CONFIRMATION**

**Present:** Shannon Arnold, Sueann Bawden, Michael Coleman, Cheryl Dinnell, Joyce Messer, Jim Meyer, Chairman, Frankie McCabe, Dena Minton, Jean Peyton, Rebecca Richard-Maley, Melissa Pegg (representative for Karen Williams, Caroline Taylor, Gillian Wells, Mary Zabel

**Absent:** Kris Christiansen, Karen Williams

**Staff Present:** Todd, Butterworth, Sherry Manning, Diana Peachay

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OF PUBLIC ATTENDEES**

Jim Meyer, Chairman, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and guests gave their introductions.

**Guests:** Heidi Doumergue, Lisa Erquiaga, Janice John, Tom Pierce, Kathy Treants

### **APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2006 AND JUNE 27TH, 2006 MINUTES**

Motion to approve the amended minutes of the May 17, 2006 minutes was offered by Caroline Taylor and seconded by Mick Coleman and unanimously approved. Motion to approve the minutes of the June 27th, 2006 minutes was offered by Caroline Taylor and seconded by Jean Peyton and unanimously approved.

### **FACILITATED DISCUSSION TO IDENTIFY STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN TRANSITION SERVICES, OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT, AND FUTURE ACTION STEPS**

Jim Meyer, Chairman, introduced Dr. Tom Pierce, facilitator, for the Interagency Transition Advisory Board (ITAB) meeting that day. He indicated that Dr. Tom Pierce will assist the board to get them on track to define their roles and responsibilities to accomplish what SB 22 set them up to define, develop and recommend. The main focus will be on how the board will bring information together, how they are going to forward it, and how they are going to get input from the community. Jim Meyer, Chairman, gave an update on transition services in Nevada.

Dr. Tom Pierce asked the board for some of the positives strengths in transition services, the next steps, commonality of the board and ideas of what needs to be done this year.

#### 1) The strengths indicated from the board were:

- a) A strong voice from this committee to see through the disabilities with a clear cut avenue to post-secondary education and for the majority to see that as a definite direction, b) this board has provided for the first time, an opportunity for all agencies to meet and discuss transition issues, c) ITAB subcommittee had accomplished a lot by looking at what was out there, d) ITAB subcommittee collaboration that focused on how they could improve transition for students with disabilities, e) Getting lay of the land within the scope of the law, f) Stakeholders' commitment and participation around the table, g) Building their infrastructure as a committee, and h) Awareness of rural outreach and how to help the schools disseminate transition information out.

#### 2) Next Steps:

- a) Get information out to rurals, b) Identify stakeholders missing from the table, c) Have stakeholders assist the board to define the work, d) Start with the end in mind of what the board wants to accomplish by the end of the year, e) Clear vision of where the board wants to be, f) What criteria is

needed to access services?, g) Need a map – How does it feel for a student – “choices”, and h) To look at best practices and models.

3) Commonality of Board:

a) Best practice rather than compliance, and b) Create something outside of each person’s truths.

4) Ideas from the board of what needs to be done this year:

- Educate the legislators through the Interim Committee on People with Disabilities (Next issue could be transition)
- Awareness campaign – proclamation, recognizing youth in transition, pins and brochures
- Dissemination of resources (turnover) training, what type of mechanism
- Students’ peers helping peers/ ambassadors
- A clearing house of services
- Internet based of services
- Resource mapping of services
- Transition piece to the internet resource Information
- Develop questions that will result in meaningful data
- Information collection
- Find resources to help self-advocacy
- Need to be in full partnership with parents, service providers, schools and students
- Set of recommendations around best practices/compliance
- Do it as a group to broaden regular diploma to vocational diploma
- The board needs to build a system beyond the constraints
- Custodian to update information on website
- Setup some type of disability resource center
- Look at SNCIL’s model
- Identify employers (employer’s voice missing)
- Look at success stories

Some of the important questions that the board wanted to focus on were: How do they know what they are doing is making a difference? How do they get meaningful data? What’s the end result of transition? The board was in agreement to think broader.

Frankie McCabe indicated that she had some data to share at the next ITAB meeting on a survey that was done of seniors exiting high school that asked what the students plan to do in the next couple of years. She said that it is a federal requirement to collect data on the same students a year out to see where they are. She suggested that the data may be an indicator for this group. Dr. Tom Pierce advised that they needed to have a blended set of data on each certain point and they need to ask for funding from the legislature to do that. Todd Butterworth gave a brief overview of the budgetary request process.

Dr. Tom Pierce asked the board to identify their priorities which were: Clearing house, self-advocacy, educating legislatures, recognition/awareness, training trainers/providers, ambassadors, employers at the

table, questions for data collection, agreement in data systems, network building, transition conference, the board needs presentation, new vocational rehabilitation counselors, post secondary/after school, and expectations of outcomes.

The board voted on the top five priorities and members selected which priority they would work on: 1) Post Secondary/After school (Mick Coleman, Mary Zabel and Jim Meyer, Chairman), 2) network building (Frankie McCabe, Cheryl Dinnell, Gillian Wells, and Rebecca Richard-Maley), 3) clearing house (Jim Meyer, Chairman), 4) training trainers/providers, (Caroline Taylor, Jean Peyton, Karen Williams and Melissa Pegg) and 5) ambassadors (Dena Minton and Shannon Arnold). The board suggested a subcommittee or meetings to address the five priorities. They indicated that they need more information on what they agree and disagree on. The board discussed avenues for training for advocates, parents, teachers and employers.

Melissa Pegg suggested Karen Sacks to be a facilitator for an ITAB meeting. She indicated that Karen Sacks is involved with best practices nationally. Mary Zabel informed the board of an upcoming Accommodation Fair. Frankie McCabe will disseminate the information to the ITAB members.

**DATE FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING** The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> in Reno, 10:00am – 2:00pm / location to be announced.

**ADJORNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.