



Livingston County Special Services
920 Custer Avenue, Ste. A
Pontiac, IL 61764

Transition Talk

Winter 2010



Illinois Transition Planning and your Local TPC

History:

As part of the Education to Careers (ETC) school to work initiative, the Illinois general assembly enacted legislation that the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DHS-DRS) coordinate the creation of local Transition Planning Committees. TPC's throughout the state work to identify resources and unmet needs, facilitate an on-going exchange of information, and develop training programs to help students and adults with disabilities make successful transition into the communities where they will live.

Members:

The Livingston County TPC is a consortium of local members, agencies, not-for-profit organizations, parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, and people with disabilities. As a team, we work to coordinate and collaborate a full continuum of services for gainful employment and quality living in our communities for anyone with disabilities.

The Livingston County TPC meets 7-8 times a year and is open to anyone interested in helping supporting transition issues in our communities.

TPC Activities:

With increased memberships due to our spring membership drive, we are excited to tackle more projects for this school year.

Currently we are focusing on several projects to be completed by May, 2011:

- A committee is working on updating a new brochure of services for parents, caregivers, agencies and educators.
- Most committee members are involved in planning our first "Transition Disability Expo" scheduled for April 12, 2011 at

Pontiac Township High School. We are planning to have 20-25 agencies represented from both Livingston and McLean counties.

- A "Transition Night" will be planned to bring in speakers for parents, caregivers, and educators on topics such as, SSI, SSDI, Guardianship and Estate Planning and Health Care.

If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please contact Pam or Caryl at 815-844-7115.



2010-2011 Livingston County Transition Planning Committee

Mona Beasley—Livingston County Probation
Tanya Bell-LCSSU Social Worker
Sherry Benjamin-DHS/DRS
Diane Cotter-Crossroads Teacher
Paula Crane-Prin. Prairie Central Upper
Josh Creek-PCHS Sp. Ed. teacher
Laura Dick-SHOWBUS
Karen Donovan-Futures
Tiffany Haan-LCSSU Speech Therapist

Robin Holzhauser-MOSAIC
Sara Hoekstra-PTHS Sp. Ed. Teacher
Jill Kern-MOSAIC
Cheri Lambert-Pontiac Chamber of Commerce
Tami Leigh-Liv. Co. Housing Authority
Dawn Mack-PTHS Sp. Ed. Teacher
Caryl McCoy-LCSSU Trans. Coordinator
Milt McKeever-Heartland Comm. College
Karen Meister-Parent

Chris Myers-Liv. Co. Mental Health
Kate Nelson-LCSSU Social Worker
Alisha O'Boyle-Liv. Co. Mental Health
Pam Posey-LCSSU Vocational Coordinator
Sandra Storm-MOSAIC
Linda Tesdal-Heartland Comm. College
Angela Thomas-PTHS Sp. Ed. Dept. Chair
Jeanne Weber-MOSAIC/Parent
Kim Tarkowski-LIFCIL



ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE

for Illinois Community College Students with Disabilities



QUEST FOR SUCCESS



The Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) wants to help people with disabilities in their quest for success.

The *Illinois Community College Initiative* will contribute up to \$2,500 per year toward the cost of tuition and fees at an Illinois community college for qualified individuals with disabilities.

Who can participate? People with disabilities who are determined eligible for the DRS vocational rehabilitation program and are interested in completing a Community College degree or certificate.

What costs are covered? DRS will contribute up to \$2,500 per year for tuition and basic fees. Financial assistance received from other sources will reduce the amount that DRS will contribute.

What classes are covered? DRS will make contributions for coursework leading to an associates degree or to a technical certificate. Non-credit courses and adult education courses are not covered.

How can you get started? Contact your local DRS office. You can find the closest office using the DHS online office locator at: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&> or by calling toll free: 1-877-761-9780 (Voice) or 1-866-264-2149 (TTY) or 1-866-588-0401 (VP)

drs.illinois.gov/cci

Jump Start Your Job Search with **Livingston County Workforce Services**

Get started on the fast track in your job by using these free services:

Illinois Work Net: This comprehensive website can help find the right job, create a resume, career exploration, skills assessment and job listings. The website is:
www.illinoisworknet.com

Resume Writing: A professional resume is crucial to a successful job search. Your resume is your chance to make a strong first impression with an employer—one that will secure you an interview. Livingston Workforce Services Staff can provide guidance on resume writing and review your resume to maximize your job search.

Interviewing Skills: The job interview is your opportunity to market your skills to a potential employer, and is key to receiving a job offer. If you need assistance preparing for a job interview, let workforce services staff help you so you will be confident and ready to make an impression.

Career Research: Looking for a new occupation? Not sure what job might be right for you? Examine your interests, personality, skills, and values to gain insight into the type of job that could be a perfect "fit" for you.

Skills Training: Need additional skills, training for a high growth occupation or credential to get ahead? You might be eligible to receive funding to pay for tuition and book costs. If interested contact the Livingston Workforce Services office.

FAFSA Application: Applying for financial aid to attend college can be a confusing process but workforce services staff can help.

**Livingston County Workforce Services is located at:
741 W. Washington, Suite 2
Pontiac, IL 61764**

Call (815) 842-6536 or email lmoore@kcc.edu for further information.

*"One important key to success is self-confidence.
An important key to self-confidence is preparation."*

A special thanks to these area businesses for supporting our students in transition

Each year, many employers in the county offer their businesses as training sites for students enrolled in the S.T.E.P. Program. The following is a list of businesses and institutions who have offered training and/or employment for our students this school year.

Bernardi's II Restaurant, Pontiac
Evenglow Lodge, Pontiac
Livingston County Sheriff's Dept.
Family Video, Pontiac
Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pontiac
Asta Care
Central Grade School Cafeteria
Lincoln Grade School Cafeteria
PTHS Custodial Staff
Livingston County Special Services
First Lutheran Church, Pontiac
Pontiac Park & Recreation
Heartland Head Start, Pontiac
County Market, Pontiac
City of Pontiac
Piper City Health Care
Good Samaritan, Flanagan
Pamida, Dwight
Prairie Creek Public Library, Dwight
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Dwight
Dwight Country Club
Just Kiddin Around Daycare
Burger King, Dwight
Woodland School Cafeteria
Woodland Custodial

Boys and Girls Club of Pontiac
US Cotronics, Fairbury
Bashford Video, Fairbury
Prairie Central High School Library
Prairie Central Custodial Staff
Prairie Central Cafeteria
Fairview Haven, Fairbury
Champion Fitness
Turning Point Therapy, Fairbury
Technical Metals, Fairbury
Faithful Friends Preschool & Daycare, Inc.
Mueller Farm
Popejoy Plumbing and Heating
Slagel Manufacturing
Chatsworth Elementary School
Dwight Veterinary Clinic
Flanagan Rehab & HCC
Flanagan High School
Flanagan Grade School
Hulse Excavating, Flanagan
Manna Group, Gridley
Heritage Manor, Streator
Kroger's, Streator
Pizza Hut, Streator
Woodland Bus Garage



Check out these Transition Resources!

States' Career Clusters

<http://www.careerclusters.org>
Information about the 16 Career Clusters

National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.ndpc-sd.org>
Email: NDPCSD-L@clemson.edu

Elementary & Middle Schools Tech Assistance Ctr.

<http://www.emstac.org>
Early career awareness and development for students with disabilities in elementary and middle schools

Think College: College Options for People with Intellectual Disabilities

<http://www.thinkcollege.net/about-us/think-college-initiatives/center-for-postsecondary-education-for-individual>

History has demonstrated that the most notable winners usually encountered heartbreaking obstacles before they triumphed. They won because they refused to become discouraged by their defeats.