



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

SUMMARY OF SB 18-231 TASK FORCE MEETING #5

Conference Call
November 13, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Participants:

Task Force members participating: John Paul Burden, David Bolin, Rhonda Berry, Rachel Tomlin, Abigail Negley, Gail Lott, Matt Cook, Colin Laughlin, and Rachel Tomlin

Keystone: Lorez Meinhold

Meeting Summary:

Welcome and Introductions

Lorez Meinhold of the Keystone Policy Center opened the meeting with round-room introductions, review of the agenda and housekeeping items.

Draft Recommendations:

Lorez began the meeting by explaining that the draft, which members had already been given, was created out of the meeting minute along with the committee's conversations and the specific recommendations.

Discussion:

- First recommendation, dedicated staff need to serve as transition liaisons with appropriate funding to support that position.
- Second youth involvement; we heard it from a variety of different folks that just having the youth participate and caregivers in this transition process is very important to help them find their voice and be a part of the plan early on.
- Third recommendations is to create a planning guide or centralized website kept up-to-date which is also easy to navigate. Examples shown by PASCO could help guide this creation. This should act as a resource exchange.
 - The website should actually be easy to navigate -- it needs to be separate in some way with multiple schools' information, CIL specific information can be provide so that parents have access, and housing information.
 - A parent to parent list-serve so that they can have a safe space to communicate and share experiences. This done separately from the Department's website.
 - Members would also like to see a glossary of terms added to this website.

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Discussion:

- Maintaining this website will be a big job, keeping it up to date, making sure it's linked to all the appropriate places. Unclear if the committee can outline funding for this position but this maintenance is a huge component of making the website successful.
 - It would be up to HCPF to contract with an entity to develop and maintain-- a planning guide toolkit that's kept up-to-date, easy to navigate.
 - The website should be listed on the Department's website. And it should be a separate website that is one-stop, so it would be easier for people to find.
 - The funding agency would be HCPF. Or another agency that doesn't necessarily have skin in the game i.e. they are not getting paid for services. There is a number of different places that could be contracted but there would have to be some state involvement.
 - How this website that going to be maintained and kept up-to-date?
 - Vital to including housing options and a greater emphasis on the steps to living independently and what that looks like for individuals, caregivers, and family. This should be included in the toolkit.

Recommendation:

- Fourth recommendation revolves around peer mentoring programs. This would include having a parent peer mentoring programs or networks. There is a need for conversations and peer support/mentor relationships from parents and youth that have been through a similar process. It's an important connection point and a great learning leverage and tool. Core idea being that there need to be both parent peer groups and student peer groups.

Discussion:

- Who would be responsible for setting up the peer programs? Would that be through the school districts for the state?
 - The task force identified the need, but we did not necessarily identify where they came from. This could mean using existing peer networks.
 - Does this need funding?
 - High school groups exist but there is a need for transitioning individuals to have access to peer mentors. The independent living centers do a pretty



good job of connecting mentors because most of their employees also have a disability so that helps.

- Jefferson County has a possible parent connection program that could be used as a framework.
- Grants are a possible funding stream that could help establish a peer networking program in different regions or models that may be could be replicated.
- Further research will be done on how other states and agencies fund and run their peer and parent mentoring programs to figure out models that could be replicated in Colorado.

Recommendation:

- Transition needs to start early in schools. Many task force members recommended using a lifespan approach that addresses developmental needs of children while communicating clear and consistent messages about the value.
 - Parents and guardians are seeking a more collaborative approach regarding the child's potential.
- The task force has determined that it is incredibly important to start education and communication as early as possible.
 - Important to balance conversations about what transition supports and what that looks like for adults while also being clear that these conversations do not lead to pulling children out of inclusive settings.
- Transition meaning that a very specific set of actions and requirements should be done in the school setting which includes the focus on post school-- and employment preparation. There is a need to clarify, for schools, what conversations will need to happen by what age, and give greater explanation and resources for teachers having these transition conversations.

The next recommendation addresses setting academic expectations and how to raise expectations and create a system where expectations are high including teaching kids how to dream and advocate for what they want to i.e. create more academic rigor.

The last recommendation revolves around the concept of improving sharing data.

- How do we come together? How outside resources and agencies get invited into schools? How do we bring together the providers and families?

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- Ideally the system would create a team-based approach with a better system for providers, community agencies, schools, and students and families insure access to resources and information.
 - This would mean clarifying and setting a clear path for schools as well as the CILs.

General Discussion:

- Are there any recommendations missing from the draft?
 - Should add ideas on how to help support and promote programs and resources that already exist in higher education and those specific opportunities.
- Creating an eligible definition.
 - Unclear if there is anything to be done at the state level but I will look into that, could be a federal issue.
- Possible recommendation around a student template portfolio to align with new and past criteria, include the idea of limiting and lowering paperwork requirements.

Next Steps:

- Members should review the draft a length share it with their networks, get any edits to Lorez by the November 26th.
 - Lorez will combine and redraft the recommendation for member review by November 29th to get final document to the Department by December 4. Then it will be given to HCPF.
- If members feel like there is more to discuss we can jump on a short call to talk through any concerns or specifications for recommendations as well. I want to make sure that everyone is good comfortable and supportive.
 - Our goal is consensus.

