



The National RAISE Technical Assistance Center
Resources for Access, Independence, Self-Advocacy and Employment

SPOTLIGHT ON RSA-PTIS

Showing the Impact
RAISE Summit 2018



35 HALSEY ST., NEWARK, NJ 07102
(973) 642-8100 – RAISECENTER.ORG



THE LINK CENTER

The LINK Center connects families, professionals, and individuals with disabilities who are transition age (14-26) with information, supports, and services.

The LINK Center provides answers to transition related questions, education and training throughout

Massachusetts, and offers a centralized transition-based website with relevant resources and information for families to easily navigate.

The LINK Center is one of seven Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) PTI's throughout the US. The centers have been identified to support other parent training information centers on issues of youth transition.

The LINK Center collaborates with statewide agencies and other organizations to support effective transition practices including the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Department of Developmental Services, and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Education and Training

The LINK Center offers free transition workshops upon request. Workshop topics include:

- ◆ Introduction to the Transition Planning Process
- ◆ Creating a Postsecondary Vision
- ◆ Next Steps: Connecting to Supports and Services as a Young Adult

Technical Assistance

The LINK Center is a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs and works closely with the Parent Training Information Call Center (PTIC) to support families in addressing transition related concerns. FCSN offers outreach support to multi-lingual, multi-cultural families. Materials and information can be translated in Spanish,

WioA Student & Family Support Project

The WIOA Student & Family Support Project is a collaboration between the LINK Center and MRC that provides pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities ages 16-22 and their families. The WIOA Student & Family Support Project has three main goals:

- ◆ Partnership with MRC Area offices to offer transition workshops for families and professionals.
- ◆ Provide transition resources through websites, webinars, workshops, technical assistance, and phone calls.
- ◆ Referral based person-centered transition support for vocational rehabilitation eligible students and families.

The LINK Center has Transition Family Support Specialists throughout the state of Massachusetts to act as liaisons to MRC Area offices along with supporting students with disabilities and their families.

Transition Brochures

The LINK Center collaborates with DESE to create family friendly brochures regarding transition and transition-related topics including The Secondary Transition Planning Process; Transition Assessment; Self-determination; Decision-Making and the Age of Majority; Secondary Transition Services; Disability Disclosure; and The Massachusetts Transition Planning Form. The brochures are all translated into Vietnamese, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, and available on our website.

Collaborations & Advisory Council

The LINK Center collaborates with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) through the WIOA Student & Family Support Project which started in 2016. The LINK Center also collaborates with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to create family friendly materials regarding transition and transition-related topics.

As well, the LINK Center is guided by an advisory council consisting of parents, professionals, and young adult self-advocates. The council meets quarterly for updates on LINK Center projects, sharing best practices in the field of transition services, and feedback on LINK Center work and materials.

The advisory council also helps the LINK Center to connect to communities across the state. Council members represent communities across Massachusetts including the western part of the state, the north shore, the south shore, and metro Boston. Understanding and connecting to the diverse communities of the state is crucial to the success of the LINK Center.

Community Partners

- ◆ Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
- ◆ Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
- ◆ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- ◆ Easter Seals Massachusetts
- ◆ Partners for Youth with Disabilities
- ◆ Massachusetts Independent Living Centers
- ◆ Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative Program
- ◆ The Arc of Massachusetts
- ◆ Boston Public Schools

Community Impact

The LINK Center connects students, families, and professionals to information about...

- ◆ Transition Planning Form
- ◆ Student Vision
- ◆ Healthcare Planning
- ◆ Self-advocacy
- ◆ Student Focused Planning
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Guardianship
- ◆ Internships
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Age of Majority
- ◆ Transition Assessment
- ◆ SSI Benefits
- ◆ Turning 22
- ◆ Adult Services

Transition is an on-going process that requires planning, skill development and building a network. The LINK Center assists with connecting to the information and resources necessary for successful transition

Conferences

Planning a Life: Making the Most Out of High School for Students with Disabilities

Two-day transition planning conference three to four times a year, with information and resources for families, educators, and professionals.

Conference Topics

- ◆ **Creating a Vision** for life beyond high school
- ◆ **Transition Laws** explained in common language
- ◆ **Transition Assessments** to determine needed skills and services for the IEP and help to identify postsecondary goals
- ◆ **The Massachusetts Transition Planning Form (TPF)** for creating richer and more impactful IEPs
- ◆ **Postsecondary education and career preparation** on eligibility services and postsecondary options
- ◆ **Community connections** exposes participants to a plethora of state and regional resources
- ◆ **Family involvement** helps participants understand their roles in transition process and motivates them

Becoming a Leader Youth Forum

Hosted by The Visions of Community, offers young adults with special needs (age 14-26) a chance to come together for an intensive, fun day of workshops, speakers, and activities. Focused on fostering a community of empowered, confident self-advocates. Partners for Youth with Disabilities (PYD) and Easter Seals youth leadership organizations facilitated workshops to encourage the creation of a vision for life after high school, developing self-advocacy skills, using assistive technology, and applying these experiences to their communities and work experiences.

Forum Topics

- ◆ Personal Visions
- ◆ Achieving Dreams
- ◆ Self-advocacy
- ◆ Self-determination
- ◆ Assistive Technology
- ◆ Access to Theater

NEW YORK STATE TRANSITION PARTNERS

May 2018 It's been a very successful year for NYS Transition Partners. This Rehabilitation Services Administration project has allowed project partners to reach more than 3000 parents, youth, and professionals with essential information through direct assistance and trainings, and tens of thousands more have received newly-developed, up-to-date information on New York State's rapidly evolving postsecondary transition landscape. The following summarizes the highlights of the year:

Mini Grants

Reflecting the project's increasing visibility and effective outreach, we received triple the number of applications for the second round of project mini grants. After careful review, we awarded eight organizations grants to reflect a diverse array of projects. The following projects were awarded mini grants:

- ◆ Creating Hope through Opportunity, Participation and Empowerment, Inc. (dba C-HOPE) to develop a food service vocational training program for individuals with disabilities.
- ◆ Community Inclusion & Development Alliance, Inc. to partially fund the production of two videos and a guide booklet focusing on Korean-American families.
- ◆ Job Path, Inc. to fund "There's a job for everyone" online video.
- ◆ The Kelberman Center to help fund the "Glitch – Empower Transition through Technology Transition Symposium."
- ◆ Long Island Communities of Practice, Inc. to help fund the Self Determination Youth and Parent Summit.
- ◆ Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL) to help fund two transition conferences – "You Hold the Keys to Your Future" and "Recipes for Success."
- ◆ ROC Spirit Ventures, Inc. to help fund their resource workspace to help individuals and families with transition help.
- ◆ Westchester Institute for Human Development to expand their "Draft IEP" tool.



Newly Developed Information Resources

There were ten new information resources disseminated this year, all published in English and Spanish, including:

- ◆ Four videos, including two success stories, one on job interview skills and one on self-advocacy; and
- ◆ Six tip sheets on soft skills, mental health (2), assistive technology, career planning, and how to use One Stop.

Tip sheets and videos can be accessed on our website at NYSTransitionPartners.org. All materials developed were distributed through our monthly ACCESS newsletter as well as at conferences, through social media posts, and as handouts and resources at the trainings conducted by each of the partners. In addition, our resources were shared with and used by school districts and agencies in their professional development and parent programs.

NYS Transition Partners Website nystransitionpartners.org

This year, we reorganized and expanded on the website we launched last year. Tip sheet resources in English and Spanish are now easier to access, and we added links to more than 70 outside resources on employment, independent living, adult systems and services, transition, as well as laws, policies, rights, and regulations for New York State families, among other improvements.

All products including tip sheets, learning community presentations, videos, ACCESS newsletter archives, and success stories developed through the project in all grants years are currently hosted on the website making it easy for NYS families to find the information they are seeking. Each partner also links to nystransitionpartners.org from their main organizational website.

Statewide Collaborations

The leadership and professionals of the NYS Transition Partners have actively participated in statewide alliances, councils, and conferences this year, allowing us to share resources and contribute to a stronger transition system statewide. Collaborative examples include:

- ◆ Participation in the state's Inclusive Workforce Alliance
- ◆ Input into the Governor's Employment First initiative
- ◆ Providing resources and information at the New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals conference which supports WIOA Youth Navigators
- ◆ Presenting at the 2017 Transition Age Youth Institute, *Preparing Youth for Transition through De-Stigmatizing Disability and Self-Advocacy*
- ◆ Project Director membership on New York State Education Department Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities

Learning Communities

NYS Transition Partners conducted two Learning Communities this year. There were approximately 80 participants in these Learning Communities representing higher education, vocational rehabilitation, job training and employment services, education, and advocacy groups as well as parents and young adults. The focus of these meetings was Supplemental Security Income and Work-based Incentives and Health Home Care Management, which impact young people with disabilities and employment.

Marketing and Outreach

ACCESS, our monthly news aggregate containing transition-related news, resources, and events, was redesigned and refreshed for ease of reading, allowing families to find information more easily. It was sent to approximately 35,000 recipients per month, or an annual total of more than 400,000.

NYS Transition Partners also developed and executed a social media campaign to promote examples of employment, independence, and self-direction, and promote high expectations. Transition Tuesdays was launched to maintain focus on this campaign. There were more than 150 Transition Tuesday and transition-related posts this year reaching more than 60,000 people. Examples of popular posts include "12 Steps for Easing the Transition to Work," "What I Want the People Who Say 'You Don't Look Autistic' to Know," and "Transition to Adulthood; A Health Care Guide for Youth and Families."

PROJECT LAUNCH

Summary, 2017-2018

In October of 2014, PACER Center received the Project Launch grant from Rehabilitation Services Administration to develop and implement rural and urban parent and youth trainings in a 4-state area (Minnesota, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana). For the past four years, Project Launch has partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), Centers of Independent Living, Workforce centers, employers, and others to provide information and training in support of the RSA's goal of meaningful employment, independent living and full community inclusion outcomes.

Project Launch's Target Population is composed of individuals with disabilities, including transition age youth and their family members in the 4-state area. There is a priority to serve underserved and underrepresented families, including those who are culturally and racially diverse. Project Launch's activities are organized around several 4-year goals.

Conduct Training/Individualized Assistance Activities

Individual Assistance: This goal was greatly exceeded by reaching 3,659 individuals through trainings and individual assistance by Project Launch at PACER Center and the three partner PTIs located in OH, KY, and IN. Individual Assistance was provided to 2,959 individuals. Project Launch's 4 PTIs provided individual assistance to 2,959 individuals including activities such as phone calls, emails, faxes, in person meeting, transition fairs and attendance at IEP meetings.

Trainings/Workshops: In summary, trainings were provided to a total of 700 individuals. Project Launch (PACER) provided training to 286 individuals and the partnering parent centers (KY, OH, and IN) reached 414 individuals.

Project Launch provided 9 family and youth workshops exceeding its target of 6 workshops. Topics included the following: *Social Security First Steps*, *Youth Career Pathways*, and *Transitioning to Employment*. In addition, Project Launch conducted a new innovative training on career exploration, called "*Youth Career Pathways*" for a group of youth and their parents. Project Launch conducted trainings on employment and postsecondary education, called "*Transitioning to Employment*." An exciting series of livestream trainings were presented and parent center partners in OH, KY, and IN were invited to attend. The trainings covered the following topics:

- ◆ Succeeding on the Job: Using Technology to Boost Skills. Livestream date: 7/25/2017
- ◆ Wellness Technology for Teens and Young Adults. Livestream date: 9/28/2017
- ◆ Staying Organized at Work. Technology Tools for Task Management and Focus. Livestream date: 12/6/2017
- ◆ Assistive Technology that Supports Independent Living for Young Adults with Disabilities. Livestream date: 4/12/2018

Partner PTIs (OH, KY, IN) exceeded their target of 6 workshops and reached 414 attendees at 9 workshops. Topics included the following: *It is My Turn* (3 workshops for 235 youth and parents); *My IEP- Learning the Basics* (3 workshops for 60 youth) and *An Individual Education Plan* (3 workshops for 119 youth and parents). In addition, 10 "*Getting and Keeping a Job*" workshops, based on a PACER curriculum, were facilitated, for students and families at transition fairs.

Expand Impact of Training/Information to Culturally & Racially Diverse Individuals/Families (Workshops Without Walls)

PACER's Hmong advocate presented on the importance of transition services for youth with disabilities on a local AM Radio station for the Hmong community and 3 sessions were conducted. It is estimated that a total of 2,800 listeners were reached.

Additional individuals were reached by PACER Center and partner PTIs through training and individual assistance. Six hundred ninety-six (696) individuals were reached including Chinese, Somali, African American, Native American and Hmong communities.

Translated Materials

- ◆ *Use Questions to Find Answers: A Guide for Parents of Children Receiving Special Education Services (Hmong)*
- ◆ *Talk to Your Child About Postsecondary Education or Training: A Checklist for Parents* (Spanish, Hmong, and Somali, summer 2018)
- ◆ The curriculum *"It's My Turn"* with PowerPoint and training book (Spanish)

Develop New Resources & Disseminate Information Through Technology & Partnerships

Information about Project Launch and workshop were publicized in PACER's newsletter, the PACESETTER which reached 134,000 persons. Workshops conducted by Project Launch (PACER) were announced in PACER's e-newsletter that reached over 45,000 persons monthly. Transition information packets were handed out to 5,234 individuals attending transition fairs by the 4 PTIs. Website page views totaled 98,340. Project Launch reached 13,334 people through social media

Project Launch informed more than 295,900 members of the community, including individuals with disabilities and family members, about this project's activities and rehabilitation services. Special efforts were made to reach persons with severe disabilities and those from under-represented populations.

Project Launch created a 5-part video series that provide career exploration tips for parents of youth with disabilities to showcase at the 2018 annual Raise Summit.

- ◆ **Transition Tips for Employment #1: High Expectations**
- ◆ **Transition Tips for Employment #2: Make Work Experiences a Priority**
- ◆ **Transition Tips for Employment #3: Use Your Personal Networks**
- ◆ **Transition Tips for Employment #4: Employers Want Good Employees**
- ◆ **Transition Tips for Employment #5: Learn What Supports Are Available**

Additional Activities, Observations, and Summary

Project Launch staff helps young adults enrolled in postsecondary institutions define and receive disability related accommodations. Staff has assisted employees with disabilities receive appropriate workplace accommodations while supporting employers as they problem solve workplace accommodation issues. There is also growing need for Social Security *Ticket to Work* trainings in collaboration with the local SSA.

Launch PTIs (MN, OH, KY, IN) are active members of their State Rehabilitation Advisory Council, State Services for the Blind, and CILs. Staff has a history of active participation and collaboration with many other disability related private, public and state organizations and agencies.

There continues to be a high interest from families for information on the Rehabilitation Act, the ADA, Transition as defined by IDEA and other legislation and services for transition age youth and adults with disabilities.

In summary, more than 295,900 members of the community, including individuals with disabilities and their families, have been informed about this project's activities and rehabilitation services. Special efforts were made to reach persons with severe disabilities and those from under-represented populations.

Spotlight on RSA-PTIs

PROJECT STELLAR

Supporting Transition to Engaged Lives by Linking Agency Resources

The goal of the STELLAR (Supporting Transition to Engaged Lives by Linking Agency Resources) project is to provide information and training to assist transition age youth (14-26) with disabilities, their parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives of the individual to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the vocational, independent living, and rehabilitation needs of individuals with disabilities.



Innovative approaches to this initiative include:

- ◆ Transition Mentors statewide to provide direct assistance to youth with disabilities and their families on transition issues and available services
- ◆ Statewide Region Transition Networks (RTN) who will create ways to deliver on-going training and information to enable individuals with disabilities, parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or other authorized representatives of the individual to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the vocational, independent living, and rehabilitation needs of the individuals with disabilities, particularly those who are members of populations that have been unserved or underserved
- ◆ Each RTN will (1) develop a strategic action plan to address training and information dissemination for the transition services needs of youth with disabilities and their family members that were previously unserved or underserved; (2) increase collaboration with school districts to more effectively partner with employers to gain work experience for youth with disabilities while still in high school
- ◆ RTNs will disseminate information and resources to transition age youth with disabilities, family members, service providers, school districts, and community members statewide on all key components of transition to adult life and the work of the RTNs

Strategies

- ◆ Career focused and on-the-job training while in school
- ◆ Inclusion of self-advocacy and self-determination skills in the curriculum
- ◆ Interpersonal skills, and job-related skills training for students
- ◆ Supervised on-the-job training in the community with continuous support for both the employer and the student
- ◆ Involvement of students, parents, businesses, and community representatives in interagency transition teams
- ◆ Meaningful job placement experiences that provide living wages and career opportunities for youth with disabilities
- ◆ Coordination between school and post-school activities

Spotlight on RSA-PTIs

OPEN DOORS

Open Doors implements DVR's Pre-ETS programs. During the school year, they work with two local school districts in King County to serve up to 80 students with disabilities.

There are **10 club meetings** during the school year, where students learn various different topics, including:

- ◆ Person-centered Planning
- ◆ Self-advocacy
- ◆ Disability Disclosure
- ◆ Transportation Training
- ◆ Anti-bullying
- ◆ Appropriate Use of Social Media
- ◆ Healthy Relationships
- ◆ Assistive Technology
- ◆ Voter Education
- ◆ Accommodations
- ◆ Self-led IEP Meeting



Open Doors' primary emphasis is serving students from communities of color and immigrant refugee backgrounds.

During the summer, they also work on the summer job readiness program. There are 48 hours of instruction at the Open Doors office focusing on job exploration in field, resume building, mock interviews, social skills, independent living, money management, self-advocacy, and more.

Pre-ETS programs are focused on direct support on youth, but Open Doors also works with DVR in different capacities through Individualized Family Support from its bilingual family support specialists, who assist students and parents in understanding VR program and services, and mediate any miscommunication due to cultural differences, or advocate on behalf of clients as needed.

Upon request, Open Doors gives presentations to DVR counselors on cultural competency.

Spotlight on RSA-PTIs

REACH FOR TRANSITION

A collaboration between 9 Parent Centers in Northeast Region 1 serving parents, youth/young adults with disabilities, and professionals; as well as their state partners, including representatives from special education, Centers for Independent Living, and state Vocational Rehabilitation agencies. In collaboration with the Region 1 Parent Technical Assistance Center, REACH for Transition brings together all 21 Parent Centers in the NE Region, including the other 2 RSA grantees in this region, FCSN and the NYS Partnership, in a community of practice that shares challenges, solutions, resources and tools. REACH is a project of SPAN: spanadvocacy.org/content/reach-transition-resources-employment-access-community-living-and-hope



Core Components of REACH

Bi-annual face to face meetings with the Region 1 Parent Technical Assistance Center to share and collaborate on transition related activities and projects.

- ◆ Quarterly Governance Board Meetings to review and guide current and future activities.
- ◆ A growing resource repository of over 150 transition-related documents from all Region 1 Parent Centers available for easy access.

2018 Webinars

- ◆ Community Resources: Centers for Independent Living
- ◆ Community Resources: Vocational Rehabilitation
- ◆ Disability & Sexuality
Part 1: Building Healthy Relationships
Part 2: Navigating Sexuality

2018 Virtual Train-the-Trainers

- ◆ Assistive Technology & Engaging Youth Through Social Media
- ◆ Building Capacity to Engage Youth
- ◆ Plan for the Future: Transition Tools to Help Youth/Young Adults

A Sampling of REACH Partner Activities

- ◆ Youth-focused conferences throughout Region 1 concentrating on self-advocacy, leadership and self-determination.
- ◆ Direct support activities for youth in areas of education, employment and community involvement.
- ◆ Weekly programs for youth such as music therapy, Self Determination Academy, and after school programs.
- ◆ Incorporation of youth activities and self advocacy/self-determination into workshops & trainings.
- ◆ Youth Advisory Board such as NJ Youth Engaged in Leading and Learning (NJ YELL) and NH Youth for Education, Advocacy, and Healthcare (YEAH) Council
- ◆ Support and education for college bound youth/young adults with disabilities.
- ◆ Developed and/or enhanced partnerships with Departments of Education, Health, Human Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation to promote youth focused activities.

RSA SHIFT TRANSITION PROJECT

Realizing New Transition Possibilities

Information and Training for Youth with Disabilities and their Families

- **One-to-one transition assistance and follow-up support**
- **Quality print and web-based information** for navigating service systems to realize a positive vision for the future
- **Tools for making and using effective action plans**
- **Workshop series** in local communities that are interactive, accessible, and useful
- **Informational online training webinars**
- **Self-advocacy and leadership development course** for youth and families
- **Guide booklets** (in development) accessible to youth and families on future planning, careers, and independent living



Shift

Check out the PEAK website:

www.peakparent.org

or contact:

Beth Schaffner,

Project Director

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719.531.9400

Project Overview

In 2014, PEAK Parent Center was awarded a five-year grant by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to provide information and support to youth with disabilities and their families as they prepare for and move through transition from high school to adult lives.

Through this project, PEAK develops cutting edge resources and provides technical assistance to other Parent Centers for using the project's products with the families and youth with disabilities they serve.

Technical Assistance to Region 5 Parent Centers

- Parent Center Transition Community of Practice
- Transition services self-assessment process
- Access to and technical assistance for implementing the project's workshop and self-advocacy training curricula and other products
- Skill-building webinars for parent center staff
- Coalition-building toolkit for working with statewide and local agencies
- Online repository of resources toolkit



The National RAISE Technical Assistance Center

Resources for Access, Independence, Self-Advocacy and Employment

OVERVIEW

In 2014, the SPAN Parent Advocacy Network, a parent-led and family-centered nonprofit Parent Training and Information Center (PTI), was funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to provide support to individuals with disabilities through the transition from secondary school into competitive employment and independent living.

RAISE was funded by a national grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services to provide technical assistance and support to seven Parent Centers. The seven RSA-PTIs include:

- ◆ **Federation for Children with Special Needs**
- ◆ **New York State Transition Partners**
- ◆ **Open Doors for Multicultural Families**
- ◆ **Project Launch**
- ◆ **REACH for Transition**
- ◆ **Shift Transition Project**
- ◆ **STELLAR Project**

RAISE HELPS CENTERS

Assists individuals with disabilities and their families in better understanding vocational rehabilitation (VR) and independent living programs and services

Provides follow-up support for transition and employment programs for individuals with disabilities and their families

Provides support and expertise for individuals with disabilities and their families in obtaining information about rehabilitation and independent living programs, services, and appropriate resources

Assists individuals with disabilities and their families in communicating more effectively with transition and rehabilitation personnel and other relevant professionals

Provides support to individuals with disabilities and their families in the development of the individualized plan for employment

Assists individuals with disabilities and their families in understanding the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act, particularly provisions relating to employment, supported employment, and independent living



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RAISE ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP

The RAISE Center is informed and supported by a group of knowledgeable ambassadors: the RAISE Advisory Partnership (RAP). These 21 board members include the seven RSA-funded PTIs, self-advocates, disability activists, and professional partners. In addition to giving feedback on RAISE work and materials, the partnership has been active in the product development work groups.

This partnership meets on quarterly conference calls, attends an annual face-to-face summit and meeting, and works together on an ongoing basis to provide TA, develop and curate resources, and stay abreast of the needs of youth with disabilities, their families, and professionals in the field.

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

- ◆ **Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)**
- ◆ **Center for Workforce Development at the Institute for Educational Leadership**
- ◆ **Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)**
- ◆ **National Black Disability Coalition (NBDC)**
- ◆ **National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)**
- ◆ **National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (NFFCMH)**
- ◆ **National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)**
- ◆ **TASH**
- ◆ **Transcen Inc. Career and Workforce Development**

RAISE Collaborates with several teams to develop and disseminate information and training materials on transition services, VR, supported employment, independent living, and career development across the Parent Center network:

- ◆ The Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR) team (housed at SPAN)
- ◆ The National Disability Rights Network
- ◆ The National Clearinghouse of Rehabilitation Training Materials (NCRTM)
- ◆ The Regional PTACs
- ◆ Other RSA and OSEP-funded technical assistance and training centers
- ◆ The National Collaborative for Workforce Development (at the Institute for Educational Leadership)

WHAT RAISE DOES

RAISE employs strategic use of face-to-face meetings, webinars, social media, and other web-based media, as well as one-to-one technical assistance strategies, to provide a variety of services:

- ◆ **Disseminates** information on promising and evidence-based practices that lead to high-quality employment outcomes and independent living for individuals with disabilities
- ◆ **Shares** strategies for reaching and serving individuals from culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse backgrounds with the RSA-funded PTI centers
- ◆ **Creates** tools to help RSA-funded PTI centers build their capacity to disseminate information and conduct training activities for including transition-aged youth with disabilities and their families on the transition from school to adult life, available VR program services, career development, and related fields
- ◆ **Fosters** development of expertise in assisting State-level, RSA-funded PTIs as they work with transition-aged youth with disabilities and their families to access transition services, VR programs, and career development opportunities*
** This expertise also includes the provision of technical assistance on how to coordinate a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) with the individualized plan for employment so that the services provided to young adults with disabilities under both plans are more likely to lead to high-quality competitive employment in the integrated labor market.*
- ◆ **Supports** RSA in collecting quantitative and qualitative data from the RSA funded Parent Training and Information Centers

2017 MEETING & SUMMIT

The 2nd Annual 2017 RAISE Advisory Partnership Meeting and Summit was held September 17-19, 2017.

September 17 was the annual face-to-face board meeting. This meeting focused on the quality and usefulness of technical assistance over the previous year, reviewed current products, and discussed potential improvements for technical assistance over the next year.

September 18 and 19 were dedicated for professional development. Information about new legislation,

employment, working with adult systems, and youth development was shared.

Summit Sessions Included

- ◆ **“The Art of Youth Engagement: Presentation” with Pat Amos and Josie Badger**
- ◆ **“RSA-PTI Showcase”**
- ◆ **“Working with Adult Services: Presentation” Panel**
- ◆ **“Staying in The Loop: Policy and Regulation Updates” with Ron Hager**

RAISE SERVICES & PRODUCTS

Individualized TA

Individual technical assistance is provided to RSA PTIs based on the preferences and schedule of each center. These schedules are determined during their annual technical assistance needs assessments.

Annual needs assessment

During the annual technical assistance needs assessment, the needs and strengths of each program are analyzed. These assessments are individually conducted with the directors of each program and a RAISE co-director.

The results are used to inform future technical assistance including topic for webinars, resource development, information provision, and connections to peers and experts in the requested fields

RSA-PTI Peer-to-Peer Calls & Meetings

On a bimonthly basis, the RAISE Center hosts a conference call for all RSA PTIs and the RSA program director. During these calls RAISE provides updates on RSA changes, records updates from each center, and discusses topics that are important to all of the centers. This year's calls had a 90% attendance rate by the RSA PTIs.

Speaking Engagements

Members of the RAISE team have spoken at these events on employment, youth engagement, preparing young adults' for a successful adult transition, self-advocacy, ADA generation, and youth partnerships:

Webinars

The National RAISE TA Center collaborated with various partners to host four (4) webinars for the RSA-PTIs, OSEP-funded Parent Centers, individuals with disabilities and their families, and our partners. Closed-captioned recordings are available through the RAISE website and YouTube page (youtube.com: "Raise Center"). Each is accompanied by a PowerPoint slide deck, a list of relevant resources, and other handouts for use by participants.

- ◆ **Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)** *Developing Financial Capability Among Youth*
- ◆ **Youth Transitions Advisory Council** *Family Support in Post-Secondary Education*
- ◆ **NY PTIC** *Breaking Barriers: Reaching the Hard to Reach*
- ◆ **National Disability Rights Network** *Helping Youth Build Work Skills*

- ◆ The NTACT Capacity Building Institute
- ◆ The Federation for Children with Special Needs Annual Conference
- ◆ The Peak Regional Leaders Conference
- ◆ TASH, DDC, NEPACT, New Mexico PTI Conference
- ◆ The RSA Directors Conference

RAISE'S ONLINE PRESENCE

Website Raisecenter.org hosts information on the different RSA-PTIs, RAISE partners, the RAISE Center, and RAISE staff. It also provides our bimonthly newsletters, webinars, blog, and upcoming events. The most important aspect of this website is its ability to connect visitors to the CPIR Hub (parentcenterhub.org) and its repository of resources on transition. RAISE's work group has identified over 78 resources (articles, webinars, and web-based tools) for the repository. As part of our formative evaluation, many of these get reviewed by our users as to their relevance, usefulness, and quality. Since the site's creation, there have been 3,386 page views.

Social Media To promote and market RAISE, the RSA-PTIs, and important information or events from other sources, RAISE maintains a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Between April 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018, 220 resources, tools, articles, and opportunities were posted for 188 followers including the RSA-PTIs, families, individuals with disabilities, and other disability programs. These pages highlighted tools, resources, policies, and best practices related to employment, independent living, and improved outcomes for youth with disabilities. [Facebook.com/RAISEcenter](https://www.facebook.com/RAISEcenter) cross-posts to twitter.com/RaiseCenter.

RAISE Blog The newest feature is a monthly blog (raisecenter.wordpress.com) from RAISE Co-Director Dr. Josie Badger and the occasional guest blogger(s) that is shared with both the raisecenter.org audience of professionals working with Parent Centers on Transition-related issues as well as with a more general audience that includes self-advocates and allies who would benefit from awareness about the issues from a personal perspective. The focus is on the personal experiences of having a disability as well as issues of transition and more from an insider's point of view. Topics have included defining transition, a look back at fitting in during school when one has a disability, and a four-part series on the intersection of disability with the #MeToo movement. Since its launch, the blog has had 78 visitors and 109 views.

E-Mail Resources are sent to the RSA-PTIs at least twice a month. From April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, a total of 116 resources were shared.

Newsletters

From April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, seven (7) *RAISE Standard* e-newsletters were disseminated to 450 subscribers, highlighting best practices, research, tools, and resources for improving transition and post-school outcomes for youth with disabilities. The *RAISE Standard* is sent to all OSEP and RSA Parent Centers, the CPIR mailing list, and individuals who have subscribed off the RAISE website. All issues are archived at raisecenter.org/news.