

Transition Checklist

Identification

_____ Adults should carry a form of identification with them at all times. Most DMV's supply a form of identification

Health Insurance

_____ Private insurance companies have policies regarding covering children on parent's policies once the child has reached a specific age. Some policies say a child "ages out" at 18 while some carriers cover the consumer until older if the consumer is a full time student. Some policies have specific requirements when a person with disabilities reaches age 18. Families wishing to have their adult child qualify as a dependant for private insurance should contact their insurance company prior to the child turning 18 to learn the company's policy regarding eligibility. Some private insurance companies have forms that must be completed by the consumer's physician with information regarding the consumer's disability. Using the physician's information, some private insurance companies then allow the adult child to remain a dependent on the parent's policy.

Social Security and Waiver Programs

_____ The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program makes cash assistance payments to aged, blind, and disabled individuals who have limited income and resources. To apply for SSI the student, or someone acting on his/her behalf, will need to provide proof of the student's income and expenses, such as costs for housing, food, clothing, etc. For a person aged 18 and over, the Social Security Administration considers only the person's income for eligibility, not the parent's income. Applicants cannot have assets over \$2,000.00

_____ Every state has an HCBS waiver - The Medicaid **Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver** program was authorized under Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. Through this program, states can help provide different services that allow those who need care to receive services in their **homes** or **communities**. See Medicaidwaiver. Org for a state by state listing.

Education after Special Education

_____ There are many ways to continue to be a life-long learner. Community Colleges Often offer classes specifically geared to individuals with learning differences. These colleges also offer services to individuals with special needs to assist them in participating in classes

with non-disabled students. The Disability Support Program at community colleges have counselors who can work with students wishing to learn more about these educational services.

_____ Other learning opportunities are available through a variety of community agencies and business, such as adult education, Parks & Recreation, public libraries and many more. Your local newspaper can be a great source of information for these types of opportunities.

Selective Service

_____ All male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S. who are 18 through 25 years of age, are required to register with Selective Service. This includes males with disabilities. Registration may be done online. For more information go to www.sss.gov.

Employment Opportunities

_____ Finding appropriate employment opportunities for individuals with special needs continues to be a challenge. Consumers can contact Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to see if they are eligible for DOR services.

During a student's high school years, the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team should include in the IEP goals to help prepare the student for future employment. Goals should be developed for all aspects of future employment, i.e. social skills, necessary academic skills, mobility (transportation) needs, etc. Parents of student's wishing to learn about different types of work experiences should talk with IEP team members about the availability of a work experience program facilitated through the education system. Remember that a student's volunteer work can help build skills that could lead to employment.

A new trend in employment is micro-enterprises. These are small business developed by

consumers and other community partners. Typically the consumer/owner has family or agency support to learn how to run one's own business. Some examples of microenterprises include a woman with Down syndrome who is a puppeteer and performs at children's birthday parties and community events. Another consumer has created a business that provides flowers for table centerpieces at several restaurants.

Adult Day Programs

___ Adult Day Programs, also known as Day Programs, provide services to adults with developmental disabilities. Typically, these programs are funded by agencies. These programs have strict procedures that must be followed prior to a consumer receiving services. Some programs have waiting lists. Consumers and their families that are considering using adult day program services at the conclusion of the student's special education program, should begin investigating adult day programs at least 6 to 12 months prior to the student exiting special education.

Health Issues:

_____ All day programs require that the consumer have a physical examination within one year of beginning the program.

_____ Day programs do not have the same rules/responsibilities as education regarding services like personal aides, toileting assistance, etc. If your child requires special accommodations or supports, be sure to discuss those issues with any prospective day program well in advance of beginning services.

Psychological Testing

_____ All day programs require a current psychological report for a consumer wishing to enter a day program. "Current" typically means that the information is no more than 3 years old. The student's IEP team should discuss what information agencies, such as adult day programs or the Department of Rehabilitation, will need in order to serve the student after transition.

Picking an Adult Day Program

_____ Consumer should visit a variety of programs prior to selecting a program. It is suggested that the visits begin at least 6 to 12 months prior to exiting special

education. Remember that day programs provide services approximately 5 to 6 hours per day. If you want to see the program when consumers are present, you will need to visit during the program's hours of operation. Be sure to contact the day program in advance to arrange for visitation. Ask if the program currently has openings and if they anticipate having openings at the time your child exits from special education. Some programs may have waiting lists, while others may not. Parents and consumers are also encouraged to talk with other parents and consumers who are currently attending adult programs.

Supported Employment

_____ Supported Employment (SE) is an approach to vocational rehabilitation for people with developmental disabilities that emphasizes helping them obtain competitive work in the community and providing the supports necessary to ensure their success in the workplace.

Service Coordinator.

_____ A service coordinator, or case manager (provided by different state agencies) works with you to develop your **service** plan based on your needs. Completes referrals for developmental disabilities providers and assists with visits, can help you access resources such as Medicaid, SSI.

This information has been compiled from many sites. For further information feel free to contact Susan Hartung at thehartungs@comcast.net.