

**Community Transitions Partnership Advisory Group  
November 14, 2016 – District Office Meeting Room  
Key Communications**

**Remaining 2016-17 meeting dates:** 12/8, 1/19

**Introduction**

Bethany Verner, assistant director of special education, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for choosing to join this committee.

The group participants went around the room, introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their involvement or affiliation. Those present ranged from a former Community Transitions student, parent, and local college representatives.

Superintendent Greg Baker was able to visit with the group and thanked the members for their participation and involvement with our district.

**Core Components of Transition** - Live, Learn, Work, Play

The primary focus for this first meeting was to review key components of the Community Transitions environment and how Bellingham Public Schools can collaborate with local colleges to provide a stronger foundation for the transitioning student. Although there may be potential issues for space and parking, both parties seemed optimistic and welcome the opportunity to assist CT.

Dominique Lantagne, teacher at CT, gave an overview of the four areas of focus for CT students and staff:

**Live:** apartment/housing, applications/leases, finding a place to live, budgeting, utilities, laundry, etc.

**Learn:** IEP planning and leading, Bellingham Technical College (BTC), Whatcom Community College (WCC), testing, registration, self-advocacy, self-esteem, voting, etc.

**Work:** informational, interviews, trial work experience, networking, resume, references, resume and application process, appearance, etc.

**Play:** Special Olympics (bowl, basketball, track, soccer), leisure, recreation, party planning, entertaining at home, vacation, relationships, dating, friendships, communication, problem solving, etc.

CT serves students through the year in which they turn 21 years of age. CT prepares the student with an IEP (Individual Education Program) with mild to severe disabilities for a successful transition to independent living, employment and/or post-secondary training.

### **Brainstorming**

Bethany informed the members that they will form four groups to brainstorm ideas for the four target areas: live, learn, work and play.

Each group will write their suggestions on the paper provided for each category. This activity will assist with the future planning for CT.

This CT advisory has a diverse group of individuals that will assist in future planning. It will aid in hearing and understanding each other's perspective.

### **Closing**

Overall, the members were positive and very engaged during the meeting and look forward to future meetings scheduled.

The representatives from BTC (Bellingham Technical College) and WCC (Whatcom Community College) were excited to work together and work towards the same goal to assist the transitioning student.

Bethany thanked the group again for their involvement and looks forward to a positive working relationship.

The meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.