

CONFERENCE PLANNING PARTNERS

This conference was organized by the Central Massachusetts Regional Transition Team, which is committed to supporting and improving effective secondary transition planning, services and outcomes in Central Massachusetts through an interagency collaborative effort for youth with disabilities. The following agencies and organizations were part of this planning effort:

- Assabet Valley Collaborative
- Central Massachusetts Regional Employment Board
- Easter Seals
- Family Ties – Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Federation for Children with Special Needs
- FLLAC Educational Collaborative
- Horace Mann Educational Associates
- Hudson Public Schools
- Institute for Community Inclusion at UMASS Boston
- Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong
- Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
- Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Massachusetts Department Mental Health
- Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation
- Massachusetts Department of Social Services
- Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
- Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change—Central Division
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
- North Central Career Centers
- Partners for Youth with Disabilities
- Quinsigamond Community College
- Seven Hills Disability Resources and Advocacy –
An affiliation of the Seven Hills Foundation
- Worcester Public Schools
- Workforce Central Career Center

REGISTRATION FORM

BUILDING A SELF-DETERMINED FUTURE FOR ALL YOUTH CONFERENCE

NOTHING ABOUT ME WITHOUT ME

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

College of the Holy Cross

1 Cottage Street

Worcester, Massachusetts

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:15 am – 10:00 am	Welcome & Keynote Speaker Rebecca Hare
10:15 am – 11:00 am	Workshop Session I
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Workshop Session II
12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch

Building A Self-Determined Future For All Youth Conference is funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CFDA #93-768) and administered by the Center for Health Policy and Research at UMass Medical School, and the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston, and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. For more information, visit www.mi-ceo.org. The conference is also funded by the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation, and APSE – Massachusetts Chapter.



Executive Office of Health & Human Services
Center for Health Policy and Research, UMass Medical School
Institute for Community Inclusion, UMass Boston

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Each workshop will be repeated a second time. Please pre-register for the workshops by indicating your first and second choices.

CELEBRATE YOURSELF! (A)

This workshop is designed for individuals with special needs and their parents, as well as the professionals who serve them. It emphasizes: knowledge of your learning styles; teaching others about how you learn; recognizing your talents, abilities and strengths; developing empowerment and leadership skills.

PRESENTERS: Terri McLaughlin and Holly Anne Neal
The Federation for Children with Special Needs

JOB READINESS (B)

This will be an interactive workshop that will bring student participants through an interest inventory activity designed to help students learn about how their interests can provide insight into the types of jobs that would be a good fit, and how this can help them prepare for and answer job interview questions. The following concepts will be addressed through this process: goal setting, problem solving, choice making, decision making and self advocacy. Also collaborating in this workshop is a local career center, who will introduce the services available to young people to assist in career preparation.

PRESENTER: Jennifer Ridder, Partners for Youth with Disabilities

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENT LIVING (C)

Many young people want to move into their own apartments when they leave high school and live independently. This workshop will help the participant to understand some of the planning choices, decisions and responsibilities that will need to be made and considered. The workshop will also introduce you to the Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) at the Independent Living Centers located within your community and with the Turning 22 Supported Living Program operated by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. We will be highlighting the innovative work that the local independent living center, Center for Living and Working TAP, is currently doing inside the high school systems.

PRESENTERS: Monica Polanco, TAP Program,
The Center for Independent Living and Working;
MaryEllen Ray,
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS TO HOGAN CAMPUS CENTER

THE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

MapQuest May Provide Door-to-Door Driving Instructions

From the East and West (Boston, Hartford and New York)

Massachusetts Turnpike I-90. Take Exit 10 to I-291 East toward Worcester. Take Exit 11 (College Square/Southbridge Street) off I-290. Cross over to the right lane immediately after coming off of the ramp to College Square. Take the first right (**BEFORE the traffic light**) onto College Street. **Go up the hill and enter the last gate on the left, Gate 7.** The Hogan Campus Center is the second building on the left with the large silver cross on it. **VISITOR PARKING** is to the right of the Campus Center.

From the North

I-495 South to I-290 West, Exit 25B. From I-290 West, take Exit 11 (College Square, Southbridge Street). Bear left coming off the ramp onto Southbridge Street. Take the first right (**BEFORE the traffic light**) onto College Street. **Go up the hill and enter the last gate on the left, Gate 7.** The Hogan Campus Center is the second building on the left with the large silver cross on it. **VISITOR PARKING** is to the right of the Campus Center.

From the Southeast

I-495 North to Massachusetts Turnpike I-90. Take Exit 10 to I-290 East toward Worcester. Take Exit 11 (College Square/Southbridge Street) off I-290. Cross over to the right lane immediately after coming off of the ramp to College Square. Take the first right (**BEFORE the traffic light**) onto College Street. **Go up the hill and enter the last gate on the left, Gate 7.** The Hogan Campus Center is the second building on the left with the large silver cross on it. **VISITOR PARKING** is to the right of the Campus Center.

From the South (Providence, Rhode Island)

Route 146 North to I-290 West toward Worcester. From I-290 West, take Exit 11 (College Square, Southbridge Street). Bear left coming off the ramp onto Southbridge Street. Take the first right (**BEFORE the traffic light**) onto College Street. **Go up the hill and enter the last gate on the left, Gate 7.** The Hogan Campus Center is the second building on the left with the large silver cross on it. **VISITOR PARKING** is to the right of the Campus Center.

“LEADERSHIP” (D)

Historically, the concept of “leadership” has been defined as one person exhibiting a host of abilities and attributes that allow that person to singularly direct a group or organization. Although many still think of leadership in that light, a new view of the concept is prevalent in most successful organizations. **“Shared Leadership”** describes how the concept of leadership extends more broadly through organizations and groups.

By examining and promoting the strengths and abilities of all members of a group, the group is stronger and the individual members more satisfied, and members will likely continue to participate in the common mission of the group. This type of leadership also allows for individuals to grow and develop skills through informal mentoring.

PRESENTERS: Ruth Osterman, The Genesis Club and
Arthur Ellis, The Department of Mental Health

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION (E)

Join us for an information-packed workshop on the “how to” of being a successful college student. Attendees will participate in a friendly Jeopardy-style game to gain facts and information about college options. Topics will include: 1) differences between high school and college, 2) steps for enrollment, 3) campus resources, 4) fun facts about college, and 5) Disability 101.

PRESENTER: Jeri Roach, Transition Coordinator
Worcester Public Schools, and
Lori Concoran, Associate Dean of Disability Services
Quinsigamond Community College

