Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
and other Developmental Disabilities  
Practice Group on Youth Transition  
August 13, 2009  
Brief Notes

Present: Julie LaBrege, Karen Cohen, Erin Miller, Bill Helm, Nate Helm-Quest, Craig Becker, Glenn Sallows, Krista Shallenberger-Burton, Amy Whitehead

The group identified resource materials. Bill shared that in addition to the Ausome Social group there is now a restaurant group that includes a group of teens who go to restaurants to practice restaurant etiquette.

We discussed the need to have more of an emphasis on self determination in the transition process. Kate shared in formation about the Oregon Youth Transition Program [http://www.ytporegon.org/](http://www.ytporegon.org/).

We discussed the challenges to early transition including the need to start early, focus on children not just parents and make sure that individuals understand their own condition. Participants emphasized the importance of having opportunities where professionals can hear from individuals on the Spectrum. We asked if there are evidence based practices about transition through the National Professional Development Center on ASD. It was suggested that there is not yet enough research in this area.

In the Medical world there are pathways for each diagnosis. Could there be something like this for children and youth with ASD (e.g., academic essentials, after school plan, social skills, health care information, parental readiness). Could there be a cheat sheet for parents? There is a lack of consistency across the state. Could our Practice Group establish standards of best practices? How do we get the information into the hands of parents? How do we disseminate information? We want to list the venues where transition information can be disseminated including: ASW chapters, Regional Centers for CYSHCN, First Step, conferences, meetings, newsletters, websites, youth panels, statewide teacher conferences, state superintendents leadership council, principals, directors of special education and transition coordinators.

We want to make sure that we know of all of the resources available for youth in transition, so Amy will send everyone the Resource List that documents Wisconsin resources. We can update this overtime. Participants will review this and let Amy know of other items to add.

Next Meeting: Amy will send out a Doodle and subsequently set up a teleconference.