



**TRANSITION
PLANNING IN YOUR
COMMUNITY**

OCTOBER 18, 2019

**PRESENTED BY DENICE SMITH, JILL BRUINGTON,
SUE MCGAREY, KATIE ROGERS, KELLY FLEMING,
KRISTIE WITTE**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Recognize transition service gaps in communities across Illinois.
2. Discuss TPCs efforts to address transition service gaps.
3. Review what TPCs are doing in your community to improve transition outcomes.



KATIE ROGERS

- Co-Chair's: Katie Rogers, Denise Jones
 - Transition Specialists with Tri-County Special Education
- Mid-South Transition Planning Committee
- Counties: Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, Williamson
 - (23 school districts)
- Email: krogers@tcse.us

KELLY FLEMMING

- Chair: Kelly Fleming Co-Chair: Elise Garr
- Chicago Southside & Southwest Suburban Area Transition Planning Committee
- Counties: Southern Cook County

KRISTIE WITTE

- Kristie Witte: LaSalle Peru High School Transition Program for 13 yrs., Chair of Illinois Valley TPC for 9 yrs.
- LaSalle, Bureau, Marshall, Putnam, and Starke Counties
- <http://lease-sped.org/ivtpc>

JILL BRUINGTON

- Jill Bruington, CTE Principal at the Illinois School for the Deaf and TPC Chair
- Jacksonville Area Transition Planning Committee (JATPC)
- Morgan county but all over the state of Illinois due to ISD/ISVI students

SUE MCGAREY

- Teacher / Teacher Leader in Braidwood, IL
- Will-Grundy Transition Planning Committee Chair
- Counties: Will and Grundy
- Website: www.transitionplan.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/WillGrundyTPC

DENICE SMITH

- Denice Smith, Current TPC Chair
- Southeastern Illinois TPC
- Counties: Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland (includes 11 school districts)
 - IDHS-Division of Rehabilitation Services, 1112 S. West St., Olney, IL 62450
 - 618-395-2147
- denice.smith@illinois.gov
- <https://m.facebook.com/events/157638498288105>

DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES (DRS)

DRS supports local Transition Planning Committees (TPCs) that are charged with identifying existing resources and unmet needs, facilitating an ongoing exchange of information, and developing local customer training programs.



JACKSONVILLE WEST CENTRAL IL (JATPC)

- Counties Served: Morgan county but all over the state of Illinois due to ISD/ISVI students
- Demographics: Located in a rural area
- Active Participants:
 - The committee consists of a variety of individuals including: a teacher, staff from the local Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) office, a parent, administrators from ISD, ISVI, Elm City, and Four Rivers Special Education, staff from the Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living, Transition Coordinator from ISD, and staff from DSCC.
- Positive Outcomes: Committed group of individuals representing a variety of perspectives; completed projects annually
- Challenges: Attendance at events, time, and accessibility to resources

SOUTHEASTERN IL

- **Counties Served:** The rural counties of Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland
- **Demographics:** The majority of the service area is a lower socio-economic status.
- **Participants:** The committee consists of representatives from the Division of Rehabilitation (DRS), the Illinois Eastern Community College (IECC) District, Community Support Systems (CSS) CRP, South Eastern Special Education (SESE), Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC), several of the representatives are also parents who have a child with a disability.
- **Positive Outcomes:** The Southeastern Illinois TPC provides a transition program each year, alternately between high school students and middle school students. The high school program is geared toward juniors and seniors in preparation for their plans after high school in order to assist in achieving their vocational goals. The middle school program is geared toward 7th and 8th graders in order to prepare them to choose appropriate classes and programming in high school to assist them in preparing for their future plans.
- **Challenges:** we serve 5 counties, including 11 school districts, we have the challenge of meeting the greatest need over the entire area.

WILL-GRUNDY

- County served: Will and Grundy counties
- Demographics: income status varies but the TPC covers larger cities like Joliet and Plainfield and many smaller towns.
- Active participants: Vocational coordinators from various schools (Plainfield, Bolingbrook, Lincolnway, etc, Cornerstone, Trinity, DHS, Joliet Junior College, Service Inc, and DSCC
- Positive Outcomes: Annual Transition Fair held at JJC (free to the public), handouts/information we provide at the conference that informs public of Transition components and agencies involved
- Challenges: servicing low-functioning adults after high school, transportation, parents' understanding of rights in secondary school vs. post-secondary school, maintaining TPC participation



ILLINOIS VALLEY

- County served: LaSalle, Bureau, Marshall, Putnam, and Starke Counties
- Demographics: Rural community with a low income status as an average for this area.
- Active participants: currently we have LaSalle Peru High School, Streator High School, Putnam County High School, Hall High School, LEASE and BMP coordinators, IVCIL, Horizon House, Gateway Services, Ottawa Friendship, DSCC
- Positive Outcomes: We developed summits to bring to our high schools providing direct information from the adult service providers in their specific areas, we have developed an extensive web page to help our whole serving community. We also the Transition wheel/Timeline from IVCIL. New adventure is our Lesson Plans on Transition.
- Challenges: Getting all special education teachers to take interest and investment into Transition services. Getting parents the information needed while serving a very wide geographic area. Expanding our group participation to parent, students, and other community members.

CHICAGO, SOUTH/SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN

- County covered
- Demographics income, rural, metropolitan:
- Active participants: The core-members of the TPC consist of the following, but not limited to: Department of Rehabilitation Services, local school districts (vocational coordinators and transition facilitators), community organizations, and adult service agencies.
- Positive Outcomes: “Transition from High School to Adult Life Guidebook”. Printed resource guide including Colleges, Unions, Adult Services, and Recreational Resources for schools to provide to parents at IEP meetings.
 - Purchasing of 100 “Wonder” books to be purchased as classroom sets prior to the presentation for My Mary Cate and Apert Awareness
 - Presentation to parents and stakeholders on SSI benefits, PUNS, Medicaid, Guardianship, Adult Services, and Community College
 - Dress for Success and job skill races.
 - Information sharing at various career fairs in the area and JJ’s List Pace Bus Training
 - Attendance at transition related conferences and share out
 - Provide mock interview sessions with community employers for students
 - Participation and information share out from Moraine Valley Community College Transition Services day and the Illinois Statewide Transition Conference
- Challenges: Schools allowing representatives to attend the meetings, obtaining new members, getting the word out to the schools

MID-SOUTH (TRI-COUNTY)

- Counties: Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, Williamson (23 school districts)
- Demographics: Rural area. Mean annual income: \$42,000. Approximately 36,980 people with disabilities within the Mid-South TPC counties; approximately 6,675 people with disabilities between ages 5-34 years. Major lack of public transportation.
- Active Participants: multiple special education teachers, a Special Education Director, a Transition Coordinator, STEP Coordinator and Transition Specialists, staff from the local Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) office, staff from the Evaluation and Developmental Center (EDC), staff from the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC), and staff from John A Logan College (JALC) and Rend Lake Community College (RLCC).
- Positive Outcomes:
 - Collaboration with local school districts and JALC and RLCC to provide two Transition Summits, one at each community college. Mini-grant utilized to secure the motivational presenter. Speakers present topics such as how to dress for success, how to access accommodations at college, and self-advocacy. Students also have the opportunity to learn about the community college within their district and meet with staff and students.
 - Produced and distributed a transition assessment binder to assist teachers in implementing IEP requirements.
 - Relationships created among various professionals in field - identify resources, opportunities for collaboration
- Challenges:
 - Locating funding and time available to offer opportunities
 - Changes in staff within various organizations
 - Meeting around the daily job duties required of each position, especially teachers
 - Parent involvement

HOW DO I START A TPC?



WHAT ARE THE SERVICE GAPS?



HOW DO YOU MEET THE SERVICE GAPS?



HOW DO YOU FUND A TPC?

