



Quarterly Statewide Transition Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Virtual Meeting

3:00pm-5:00pm

Members Present: Aimee Dunlap
Jodi Truman
Jill McCormick
Michelle O'Neill
Chris Notaras
Rose Almanza
Stacy Lovell
Mallory Fleshman
Jenna Ziegler
Susan Armstrong

Members Absent: Cindy Hernandez Juarez
Karli Schwimmer
JayDee Hoskins
Ky Ly
Lizzie Johnston
Trevor Payne

Advisory Associates: Nick Harris – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
Ben Martin – Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS)
Matthew Hines – Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)
Lisa Wheeler – Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)
Tania May – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Alexandra Toney - Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Council Partners: Meg Iyer – Center for Change in Transition Services (CCTS)
Jay Shepherd - Center for Change in Transition Services (CCTS)
Aaron Dickson – Community Employment Alliance (CEA)
Cathy Murahashi – The Arc of Washington State
Daniel Bravo – Association of County Human Services (ACHS)
Jaimie Laitinen – Wise
Emily Rogers – Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)
Shelby Satko – Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)
Elizabeth Gordon – Governors Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)

DVR Staff: Pablo Villarreal
Larissa Wulfekuhle
Sam Blazina
Melinda Bocci

Guests: Rena Van Meter
Gabriel Delgado
Heidi Scheibner
Jen Chong Jewell

Rose Spidell
Emily Hart
Kristin Murray

Sundus Ali
Isabel Crisostomo

1. Introduction:

Intro from Pablo Villarreal:

- Welcome to the Council and update on the Statewide Transition Council's progress over the past year including moving to quarterly meetings, adding Council Partners and Advisory Associates into the Transition Council and introducing the use of subcommittees.

2. Council Business:

June 17, 2025, meeting minutes considered final.

Community Compensation update including source of funds

Moving away from a Charter to a Group Agreement

Attendance expectations for the Council members

Adding additional Council Partners and Advisory Associates

Attendees suggested: Counties, Transportation and Housing entities, youth behavioral mental health professionals, employment support agencies, Washington School for the Deaf, organizations that support multicultural youth or represent immigrant youth/families.

Melinda Bocci provided updates to our process on approving past meeting minutes and stated our June 17, 2025, meeting minutes are now considered final. Updates to community compensation and the source of funds, moving away from the word Charter and changing it to a Group Agreement instead due to community-based nature of the council. Attendance for the Transition Council was brought up as well as reiterating reaching out to the administrative support if needed, Melinda asked the council if there are other organizations they would like to invite as Council Partners or Advisory Associates to the Transition Council as a means to support their work in their subcommittees, and lastly DVRs need to combine subcommittees.

The council members and others provided comments on who they would like to see included as partners to the Transition Council. Including: Counties, systems critical to employment such as transportation and housing, behavioral mental health

professionals working with youth, agencies in charge of hiring or contracting work, and employment support agencies, DSB, Washington State School for the Deaf, Pave, organizations that support multicultural youth or represent immigrant youth/families.

3. Subcommittee Updates:

A. Regional Networks update provided by Sam Blazina:

- a. The subcommittee is working on gathering a spreadsheet of main point of contact for Statewide Interagency Transition Networks and hoping to be completed by October.
- b. They talked about increasing school engagement through tailored surveys and discussed gathering local input on ITN discussion topics for the year.
- c. **Additional update from Aimee Dunlap:** the spreadsheet is to see where ITNs throughout the state lack and visualize where we can help those underserved areas.

B. Support Underrepresented Groups update provided by Mallory Fleshman:

- a. It was shared that the subcommittee lead stepped down from the council, which created some confusion on the subcommittee's expectations as they were not clear and hadn't met most of the summer.
- b. **Additional update from Jenna Ziegler:** mentioned meeting with Ben and Megan [from DDCS] on getting connection data on students graduating compared to students getting connected to services.

C. Referral System update provided by Michelle O'Neill:

- a. They've met with the 5790 utilization workgroup and the subcommittee connected with OSPI and ACHS at their September meeting, making the connections between the agencies of 5790 and the subcommittee highlighting barriers and coming up with potential solutions.
- b. Next for them is to focus on refining goals

D. Equitable Access update provided by Stacey Lovell:

- a. Mentioned the subcommittee is going to be combined with another.
- b. Currently, we are struggling to come up with goals and having issues with attendance.
- c. Talked about educating and informing students and families about employment services and resources.

4. Advisory Associates and Council Partners updates to business:

a. Nick Harris, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

1. New school year has started,
2. 15 Regional Transition Consultants throughout the state doing outreach at schools.

3. DVR is in Order of Selection, meaning there is a waitlist.
4. DVR currently has 42 contractors for group Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).
5. The topic of closing all categories was brought up and reiterated that DVR will continue to be taking applications regardless of closing categories or not. No official confirmation at this time.

b. Lisa Wheeler, Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)

1. DSB is not in Order of Selection.
2. DSB offers services to students, Pre-ETS services, individual services for individuals on a plan for employment.
3. Moved to a 1 on 1 approach with students for services and collaborating with education agencies, and families.
4. Entered into a pilot program with the Oregon Commission for the Blind.

c. Ben Martin, Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS)

1. Main focus is supporting partners with Senate Bill 5253, allowing students access to transition services for a fourth year if needed.

d. Alexandra Toney, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

1. Also have extended services to include age 22 from the Senate Bill 5253 – [Questions and Answers: Providing Special Education Services Until Age 22](#)
2. Working on Implementation Plan, due 10/2026.
3. OSPI shares student information with agencies of students who are potentially eligible for services. OSPI has shared the first year of students.

e. Shelby Satko, Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC)

1. Always looking at what policies DVR wants to implement or review that are customer facing – nothing to highlight currently.
2. Transition Map is available in 12 languages, fully accessible and is a cross-agency resource. She shared the link - [Washington State Transition Map | WSRC](#). Future updates to be made to the document are: agency name changes and including age 22. Second phase of the transition map is to create an internal resource for state agency staff to inform them of services that other agencies provide.

5. Open Discussion for Council Partners, Advisory Associates and the Transition Council

1. Jill McCormick to Matthew Hines – How does DSB connect school districts looking at transition support services with students that are not at the Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB)?
 - a. Matthew Hines- Maintain partnerships with the WSSB, major cities have been covered but we are reaching out to areas that we haven't been able to create the opportunities or relationships, attending regional transition roundups hosted by the WSSB outreach team.
2. Jaimie Laitinen asked a question about resources and contacts for students and families' access to technology
 - a. Multiple resources were brought up from multiple attendees: Washington Assistive Technology, DVR, ACT program, Community First Choice Programs for technology offers \$500 for clients receiving personal care. links shared include:
 - [Welcome | WATAP](#)
 - [Assistive Technology Loans – Northwest Access Fund](#)
 - [Explore AT from AT3 Center](#)
 - [Assistive Technology Resources | DSHS](#)
 - [Central Washington University | Assistive Technology Lending Library](#)
 - Jodi Truman mentioned Central Washington University also lends to any district and is a good way to try the technology before buying. Sam Blazina confirmed this sharing she has used them before.
 - Jodi Truman mentioned the Transition Hub website used for families and students to access; the link was shared [Transition Hub](#)

6. Public comment

Jen Chong Jewel, Transition Coordinator for Snohomish County, shared that Snohomish County has been involved in transition since 1989. Counties have an important role and invaluable data to offer regarding transition. She offered an open invitation to Snohomish County's Transition Network meeting by going to the county website. [Developmental Disabilities | Snohomish County, WA - Official Website](#)

Jen brought up data, sharing the following links:

- 2024 DDA caseload and cost report, highlighting page 16. [25-0001 DDA Caseload Report.pdf](#)
- Data about post school outcomes [Counties, 2022-23 Leaver Year - Google Drive](#)
- County data [2025-26 Snohomish County Transition Program & School District Data - Google My Maps](#)

Meg Iyer of CCTS shared post school outcome data for 2023 [Post-School Outcome Data | Center for Change in Transition Services | Seattle University](#) and shared CCTS is updating courses on their platform to have more inclusive information and have clock hours through Seattle University at no cost.

Jodi Truman requested more information on the courses available on Canvas to share with her team.

In response Meg shared the following link: [Secondary Transition Training | Center for Change in Transition Services | Seattle University](#) and email address CCTS@Seattleu.edu for additional information or questions

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm