



CITYWIDE DISTRICT 75 COUNCIL

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MINUTES CALENDAR MEETING

The Calendar Meeting of the Citywide District 75 Council was held on Wednesday, **May 16, 2012** at 6:00 pm at Tweed Courthouse, 52 Chambers Street, Manhattan, NY. The following people were in attendance.

Calendar Meeting:

*Note: Ms. Gloria Smith, Treasurer called the Calendar Meeting to order.

Call to Order at 6:40 PM the Calendar Agenda

1. Roll Call

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|-----------------------|---------|
| Able Alagbe | Present |
| Charlene Carroll-Hall | Present |
| Maureen Dantzler | Present |
| Diamaris Magarin | Present |
| Aliya Rasool | Present |
| Gloria Smith | Present |
| Alicia Valeus | Excused |
| Joseph Williams | Excused |

2. Appointment of Time Keeper

Charlene Carroll-Hall

3. Report of the President: Joseph Williams

Ms. Smith read the report of the president as follows:

With great regret, I will not be able to attend tonight's meeting. I will be attending my daughter's college graduation.

The Presidents Report for the D75 council for May 16th 2012:

On April 24th 2012 the District 75 Council attended the roll out of special education reform. After carefully reviewing the objective of this phase of the Special Education Reform, D75 Citywide Council representation found no areas that address and objectives for D75 programs. As a result we have decided that we are notable to join in co-facilitating the April 24th roll out of this phase of the Special Education Reform. However, council members were in attendance to lend their support. District 75 Citywide Council members will continue to be supportive of reforms that benefit all children with special needs.

Joseph Williams

4. Report of the Superintendent: Gary Hecht

Gary Hecht, Superintendent welcomed the council and attendees and mentioned the following items that are taking place within District 75:

- On Saturday, May 19th at 8am to 3pm at 283 Adams Street the old family court building the District will host the Annual EPIC Fair. During the fair all members of district 75 and schools will be represented at the fair. Schools will present their best practices; there will be parent's workshops, baby sitting service. It will be a fun day for parents and students.

- On Saturday, May 23rd Samuel Stern Awards will be held at the Lighthouse. The Deputy Chancellor and Gloria Gaynor (great possibility) will be in attendance during the event. The Samuel Stern Awards are for students that have been selected based on their achievement and accomplishment not only academically but socially and emotionally. Selected students are from K through 12th grade.
- Articulation Letters (placement) were sent out from the district office. If parents should have questions on which school their child (ren) will be placed in September please have them call the Superintendents office and we will get them in touch with the placement office.
- Turing five students: The district expects at least a thousand students. The due date for letters to be sent out to parents from central (Tweed) is June 15th.
- ELA/Math Exams: Student's grades 3rd to 8th took the exams; the districts sent the exams to the state and are waiting for the results.
- Quality Review: Our schools are finishing up their quality reviews and we have the results of the following schools: 396K received a developing, 723X received a well developed, 255Q received a proficient and 138M received a developed. There are two schools that are waiting to receive their quality review.
- Laura Rodriguez, Deputy Chancellor will be retiring on July 1st the new Deputy Chancellor has been assigned to the Division of Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners is Ms. Corinne Rello-Anselmi. Ms. Anselmi has an extensive background in special education she was a principal an inclusive school.
- Chancellors Professional Development Day: June 7th Schools are closed.
- Chancellor's Workshop: June 9th Principals have been invited to participate at Brooklyn Tech for citywide expectations workshop for the September.
- Chapter 683: will begin on July 2nd and 3rd for staff orientation and on July 5th the program will begin for students and will end on August 14th.
- School Construction Authority: Some schools will be closed for the summer for repairs.

5. Transition: Natalie McQueen, LMSW: District 75 Coordinator of Transition Services

Ms. McQueen introduced herself thanked the council and attendees. Ms. McQueen provided the parents with outline of what Transition Services are:

Transition Services that are mandated by Individuals with Disabilities of Education Act and basically inquires that we start thinking about full secondary finding for our students. So when does this begin, the law requires that we start this process at the age of twelve. The assessment is an inventory of a parent, student and teacher part; it's a document that really serves the purpose of engaging all members that are providing that are directly or indirectly and also to provide an opportunity to hear from the students what their interests are. Transition services were designed with coordinated set of activities. There are a lot of different things that we have to do while the student is in school because the emphasize is post students success. At the age of 15 they do another reevaluation where they are focusing on the path that the student can successfully accomplish as they continue to receive guidance. By the time the students is 18 years old we are able to assess the programs to place the students after graduation, i.e work related, day programs.

(see attached provided material during the meeting).

6. AXA Advisors, LLC: Stuart M. Flaum, Managing Director

Mr. Flaum thanked the council for being at the meeting. He stated that his originations help parents set up trusts and guardianships for their children. His company will also help parents deal with any legal issues pertaining to their special needs child. Mr. Flaum left lecture for parents to contact him if they need his services.

7. The Child's Place for Children with Special Needs/Kidsmobile: Carrie Banks, Supervising Librarian

Ms. Banks did not contact the council or attend the meeting.

8. Report of the Secretary: Approval of Working & Calendar Meeting Minutes-

The minutes were tabled until the next Calendar Meeting in June- No Quorum.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm



Department of
Education

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

What are Transition Services?

How does it work?

The Transition Individualized Education Plan will be developed by a team which includes the student, his/her parent(s), school staff and outside agency personnel. It will be developed based on your child's strengths, needs, preferences and abilities and the goals will be based on your child's (and your family's) dreams and desires. Specific tasks may be assigned to each member of the team to help your son or daughter achieve his or her long-term goals. The Transition Linkage Coordinator (TLC) will be the liaison at the school who can assist you and your child with coordinating many of the transition activities. The Transition Plan will be updated as needs and interests change.

What You Can Do Now

- Talk to your child about what he/she wants to do when he/she leaves school
- Visit the Family Support Fair in your borough
- Participate in your borough's Office for Persons With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) or Mental Health (MH) Council
- Identify support services and programs for your son/daughter and family (e.g., family support services, SSI/Medicaid, Service Coordination)
- Use the public transportation system with your child
- Review Guardianship and Estate Planning issues
- Talk to and educate your son/daughter about their disability and medical management needs (as needed)
- Collect information about your child
- Set goals for the future with your child
- Learn about resources
- Explore post secondary options with your child (e.g. ACCES-VR, OPWDD, OMH programs and/or educational opportunities)
- Be an active team member
- You and your child need to attend all scheduled transition meetings
- Stay involved and communicate with school staff as often as possible (e.g. Transition Linkage Coordinator, Teacher, Guidance Counselor)
- Periodically review and monitor the transition plan and services with your child and other team members
- **If you are not sure about something or want more information, ASK!!!! ASK!!!! ASK!!!!!!**

Transition Websites and Resources:

District 75 Office of Transition Services

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/Departments/Transition/default.htm>

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES-VR)(formerly VESID)

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/>

Resources for Children with Special Needs

<http://www.resourcesnyc.org>

CareerZone (Career exploration website)

<http://www.nycareerzone.org>



Department of
Education

Denris M. Walcott, Chancellor

What are Transition Services?

The term "transition services" means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

- Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;
- Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests; and
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation. [34 CFR 300.43 (a)] [20 U.S.C. 1401(34) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act]

The transition process is designed to help your son or daughter move smoothly from school to adult life. This process formally begins when your child reaches the age of 14. However, at age 12, a Level 1 vocational assessment which is made up of a student, parent and teacher interview is completed. This assessment helps with identifying your child's strengths, needs, preferences and interests. Transition planning is part of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process and will be reviewed and updated each year. These planning sessions will identify desired outcomes and develop action plans in the areas of:

- Legal/Advocacy
- Personal Independence/Residential
- Recreation/Leisure
- Financial/Income
- Medical/Health
- Employment (with or without supports)
- Transportation
- Vocational Training/Continuing Post-Secondary Education
- Other Individual and Family Support Needs and Services

Using person-centered planning techniques, the transition process focuses on your son or daughter's interests and abilities in developing a plan for the future.

Early planning is essential! There is **NO GUARANTEE** of a job, day program, or residence once your son or daughter leaves school. However, early planning ensures that you increase the chances of positive results!

- It provides more time to explore options and alternatives with representatives from school and agencies.
- It will help your son or daughter get appropriate services upon graduation.
- It will help get support from agencies (other than the NYC Department of Education) that can be put in place while your child is still in school.
- It will identify skills to be developed that will lead to greater participation in the community for your son or daughter.
- It helps to focus on all your child's needs.
- It relieves anxiety for your entire family when a plan is formulated.

Transition Resources for Parents

✚ ACCESS-VR (Adult Career & Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation) formerly VESID

<http://www.access.ny.gov/vr/>

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCESS-VR) offers access to a full range of employment and independent living services that may be needed by persons with disabilities through their lives. Through its administration of vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs VR coordinates policy and services relating to transition services, vocational rehabilitation, independent living services and the hiring of individuals with disabilities.

✚ Case management/service coordination

Case management/Service Coordination is an individually centered service focusing on consumer strengths, needs, and abilities. Service Coordinators work with individuals to assess needs, set goals, refer to various services, and advocate for consumer needs and rights.

✚ Guardianship

<http://www.nycourts.gov/diy/guardianship17A.html#Q1>

The appointment of a guardian is made when a person is unable to meet his/her needs for personal care, property management, or both. In deciding whether the appointment of a guardian is necessary, the court must consider all the evidence including the information and independent observations provided by the court evaluator's report as to the person's condition, affairs. In NYS, the Article 17A Guardianship Petition is used if you want to appoint a guardian for a mentally retarded or developmentally disabled person.

✚ Human Resources Administration (Public Assistance, Medicaid, Food Stamps)

www.nyc.gov/hra

The New York City Human Resources Administration/ Department of Social Services (HRA/DSS) provides temporary help to individuals and families with social service and economic needs to assist them in reaching self-sufficiency.

✚ New York City Transit (Half-Fare Metrocard, Access-A-Ride)

<http://www.mta.info/nyc/fare/ri/index.htm>

A Reduced-Fare MetroCard is a personalized MetroCard with your name and photograph. You must apply for, and be approved to receive it. The Reduced-Fare MetroCard works the same as a regular MetroCard. To qualify for the program, you must either be receiving Medicare benefits for any reason other than age, have a serious mental illness and be receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits, have an intellectual disability or other mental capacity impairment. Visit the MTA's website or call 718-330-1234 for additional information.

✦ NYCDOE Office of Travel Training

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/Departments/TravelTraining/default.htm>

Travel Training is short-term, comprehensive, intensive, one-to-one, specially designed instruction to teach high school age students with disabilities (other than blindness) how to travel safely and independently on public transportation, where appropriate. The one-to-one instruction is provided by specially trained personnel on routes the students will use to travel on public transit from home to a specific destination, usually school or the worksite, and back to home again. The Travel Training Referral Form and a Pupil Profile is completed by school personnel who know the student and forwarded to the Travel Training teacher for your school.

✦ One Stop Career Center

www.nyc.gov/workforce1

The NYC Department of Labor One-Stop Career Centers provide job seekers with a full range of assistance under one roof. One-Stop centers offer free training referrals, career counseling, job listings, and similar employment-related services.

✦ Office for People with Disabilities (OPWDD)

www.opwdd.ny.gov/

The mission of OPWDD is to support and provide assistance to people with developmental disabilities live richer lives by creating opportunities for them to access necessary supports and services they want and need. Eligibility for OPWDD services requires that a documented developmental disability was identified prior to age 22.

✦ Office of Mental Health (OMH)

www.omh.state.ny.us/

The New York State Office of Mental Health's mission is to facilitate the recovery of young to older adults receiving treatment for serious mental illness, to support children and families in their social and emotional development and early identification and treatment of serious emotional disturbances, and to improve the capacity of communities across New York to achieve these goals.

✦ Social Security Administration (SSI, SSD)

<http://www.ssa.gov/disability/>

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. While these two programs are different in many ways, both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria may qualify for benefits under either program.

✦ U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

The USCIS provides accurate and useful information to customers on immigration and citizenship benefits, and promotes an awareness and understanding of citizenship, and ensures the integrity of the immigration system.

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE USE