

The Wisconsin Community of Practice on Transition

Connected to the National Community

Working Across the State(s) and with Stakeholders to Build Interagency Bridges for Youth

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2008 Rehabilitation & Transition Conference, "Session 45"

Presenters

- Cindy Cane DVR Transition
- Steve Gilles DPI Transition
- Jenny Gilles Youth Council
- Beth Swedeen, Waisman Center

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Communities of Practice, a Conceptual Framework for Problem Solving

"Groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their **understanding and knowledge** of this area by interacting on an ongoing basis"

A Guide to Managing Knowledge, Cultivating Communities of Practice, Etienne Wenger, Richard McDermott, William Snyder, 2002, p4

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What is a Community of Practice?

- A **structure** that enables routine *communication, learning* and *action* among individuals and groups that agree to meet regularly to improve current practice
- A **mindset**, a *way of working* that promotes shared work and moves away from isolated activity
- **Inclusive framework** for creating dialogue around *who and what is known* as well as *who and what we need to know*

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The Spirit of Community: We Are In This Together!

A way of working

- Involving those who do shared work
- Involving those that share issues
- Always asking "who isn't here?"



A way of learning

- Create new knowledge grounded in 'doing the work'
- Involve those who can advocate for and make change

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What we hope to accomplish

1. **Building connections across the State & National Community States**
2. **Communicating the potential of the 'community'**
3. **Using the Community Connections**
4. **Creating regular communication**
5. **Stimulating the work of Transition issues through focused groups, i.e. the practice groups**

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Where is the Community Focus?

- Promoting interagency connections and shared work
- Supporting the vision of a more meaningful youth role
- Promoting year-round strategies, and state-wide meetings as a catalyst
- Coalescing around emerging issues
- Building the community within and between states

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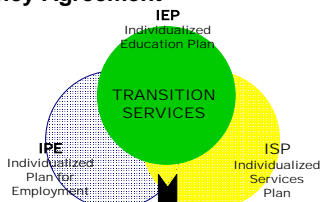
Cross System Work

Interagency Collaboration

New Joint DPI, DVR, DHFS Agreement

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Interagency Agreement



POST-SCHOOL
EMPLOYMENT GOALS
Division of Learning Support: Equity and Advocacy
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Wisconsin Division of Disability and Elder Services
Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services

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Year-Round Strategy

Creating An Environment where Local Stakeholders can Learn from One Another

The Wisconsin Community on Transition

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Meaningful Youth Role

- Youth Leadership & Youth Development
- MIG Grants 06, 07, 08,
- Youth Advisory Council to WSTI

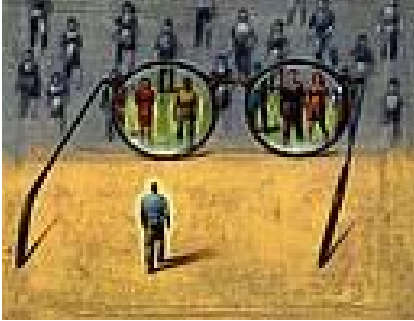
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State-to-State Learning Around Issues

- Youth Development and Leadership
- Employment
- Health and Transition
- Postsecondary Education

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New Eyes, Meeting the Challenges Through Communities of Practice



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Wisconsin Community on Transition

Practice Groups

- Active
 - Youth Development and Leadership
 - Employment
 - Health and Transition
 - Postsecondary Education

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Wisconsin Community on Transition

Practice Groups

- Practice groups are created to;
 - Realize our vision and mission
 - Provide structure and focus for our work as a community
- The community helps the practice group to focus on the big picture; the practice groups keep the community focused on the many dimensions of the issue

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Work of Wisconsin Community on Transition ?

- Refine, & develop and/or adopt the groups' mission and vision,
- Create and expand networks including using shared work.
- Establish next steps to expand and develop the Wisconsin community on Transition.
 - Set up future meetings,
 - Continue facilitators workgroup attend national mt.
 - Sign up on sharedwork.org
 - Continue and expand and communicate network
 - Identify discuss and adopt a plan to share costs and work across membership

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What's Next for the Development of Practice Groups?

- Identify added issues/priorities that come up from group members
- Involve community members in leadership opportunities,
 - Sign up to participate in existing practice groups
 - Continue to activate, expand practice groups
 - Development of new practice groups,
- Participation in Statewide Community meetings
- Let go of non functioning practice groups

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Sharing Our Work

sharedwork.org

<http://www.sharedwork.org/>

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Year-Round Communication Network:

www.sharedwork.org

This website is used to...

- o Announce new products developed.
- o Announce training events.
- o Disseminate the results of state pilot projects.
- o Share promising practices.
- o Encourage local-to-local sharing.
- o Seek input from the field on matters of shared interest that are being discussed by one or more of the Community of Practice partners.
- o Advise the development of the key national, state, regional, and local meetings.
- o Other opportunities that become evident as we communicate more routinely.

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Resources on Community of Practice

- Communities of Practice: A New Approach to Solving Complex Educational Problems
<http://sharedwork.org/documents/PartnershipBookleforWeb.pdf>

New Eyes: Meeting Challenges Through Communities of Practice
Brief # 1: www.sharedwork.org - A Communication Resource to Support Communities of Practice
http://sharedwork.org/documents/NewEyes_sw2.pdf

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