



High School and Beyond

Being Prepared for College, Careers and Adult Life
From a Parent & Professional Perspective





Presented by Anna Stewart

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- ❖ BVSD Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Coordinator
- ❖ Common Sense Parenting Certified Instructor
- ❖ CDE Transition Training Consultant



More than one path to a rich adult life

- 1 Employment
- 2 Social Security Benefits & Adult Medicaid Waivers
- 3 College & Vocational Training
- 4 Guardianship & Alternatives

Transition goals determine the path

- The IEP goals should be realistic, accurate and attainable.
- They should align with classes and activities during the school day and into 18-21 services.



Adult outcomes improve if



- Students are given opportunities to struggle and make mistakes and then correct them
- Reduce dependency on adults to direct their learning
- Asked to redo work, retake tests, keep up with classmates
- Behaviors that interfere with learning are addressed
- Know their disability and how to ask for accommodations
- Develop a good work ethic

Employment

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

- Works with ALL disabilities
- Independent, integrated employment
- School to Work Alliance (SWAP)- mild to moderate
- Job coaching- moderate to significant
- Entrepreneurship

Employment, Continued

Medicaid Waiver supported employment

- Can be after DVR services to maintain job, or
- For adults who need attendant care
- For adults who are working towards independent employment

Adult Medicaid Waivers

- Eligibility (IQ or Functionality)
- Support Intensity Scale (SIS) for funding
- Two types- Supported Living Services (SLS) and Comprehensive (Developmental Disability)
- To increase independent living skills
- Housing options
- Connect to SSA eligibility determination



Social Security -SSI

Supplemental Security Income

- Apply month after child turns 18
- Cannot have assets over \$2000 in name
- Need Colorado ID or Driver's License
- Must have Social Security Number
- \$941/month



Social Security- SSDI

Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)

- If parent is retired, deceased or disabled, or
- Person earns enough work credits
- Comes before SSI and not affected by work as much



College

Community, State or Universities

- Colleges have Disability Services on campus
- Rights and Responsibilities different than high school
- IN Inclusive Higher Education options for students with IDD at multiple Colorado campuses



Vocational Training

- Tech schools/Certificate programs at Community Colleges, Lincoln Tech, Emily Griffith
- TACT (Teaching the Autism Community Trades) in Englewood Job Corps



Guardianship

Guardianship is filed with county courts and removes all rights except to vote and to marry (in CO). Does not require an attorney to file, cost varies in counties (av \$400), requires a yearly report filed.



Guardianship Alternatives

Alternatives include

- Supported Decision Making
- Medical Durable Power of Attorney
- Financial Durable Power of Attorney

All should be a Shared Decision Making approach!



Sabrina's Story



- ❖ No speech until 3 years old
- ❖ Inclusive High School experience
- ❖ Registered with DVR at end of senior year
- ❖ Worked as server in senior center and as a front desk clerk at a hotel, currently a swim instructor
- ❖ Accessed 18-21 services through school district
- ❖ Learned to take RTD over 10 year period
- ❖ Has SSDI and SSI
- ❖ Has a Special Needs Trust
- ❖ Has an ABLE Account
- ❖ Mother has Medical Power of Attorney
- ❖ Lives independently in own apartment for past 3 years



Thank you

