

Collier Partners in Transition (PIT) Team
2008-9 Meeting #1 Minutes
September 15, 2008
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Present Members:

1. Allman Todd, CCPS
2. Annie Alvarez, CCP&R
3. Carlos Menjivar, CAT
4. Elaine Gage, APD
5. Gary Gropper, Bank of America
6. Mary Kelly, CCPS
7. Paul Starzyk, Sunrise Community
8. Susan Anderson, Children's Medical Services
9. Susan Ham, FDLRS
10. Wilbur Hawke, FND
11. Andrea Breznay, Neopolitan Family Magazine
12. Emma Trevino, DVR for John Waligora
13. David Longfield-Smith - CostCo

Welcome and Introductions

The Collier PIT meeting was held in the Martin Luther King Administration Center, Collier County Public Schools (CCPS), Room 1-103, on Monday, September 15, 2008. The meeting was called to order approximately 1 pm, and facilitated by Allman Todd, CCPS.

Minutes from the May 19, 2008 were submitted and approved by members in attendance.

Update from State Partners in Transition & Project Connect

Allman advised that due to budget cuts State Partners in Transition and Project CONNECT were no longer functioning entities. Some chances for resurrection were being explored. Allie advised that CCPS still considered basic goals of improved transitions planning for students with disabilities is imperative. It will still be a major initiative of the Department of Education (DOE) to require and emphasize Transition outcomes.

State Public School Requirements – Allman Todd

Allman advised that CCPS has refined its requirements to meet state and federal requirements that Student and if under 18, parent written consents are required to invite agencies or persons outside of CCPS to attend IEP meetings under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This consent will typically be obtained when the student enters the 9th grade or turns 16, whichever comes first. The most frequent agencies involved with CCPS students are Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD).

Postsecondary goals addressing a timeframe 2-5 years after graduation must be written for students Transition Individual Education Plans (IEPs). These Postsecondary goals must be written in Instruction/Training, Employment and Daily Living Skills (if appropriate).

Allman mentioned that the school district has an obligation to encourage agency attendance and participation at IEP meetings. He responded to a question from the group which were the most common agencies requested. The agencies outside of CCPS were Voc. Rehabilitation and Agency for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Other agencies that were occasionally invited included Div. of Blind Services, Center for Autistic Related Disabilities and Children's Medical Service. Lorenzo Walker Inst. of Technology was frequently asked within the CCPS system.

Collier Area Transit Update

Allie shared that the County Commissioners have voted on a preliminary budget, which includes a proposed cut of \$415,000 to the Collier Area Transit (CAT). Much discussion ensued. Allie read a draft letter to the PIT group and received their support. Membership was encouraged to write letters of support to the Commissioners requesting continued full funding for CAT.

Open Agenda

Wilbur Hawke of FND advised that the "Teaming with Heart" open forum drew about 80 individuals. He expressed disappointment in the turn out but was very pleased with the quality. He opined for more employers to get involved.

David Longfield-Smith, new attendee from Costco advised that his company could not be looked upon for major donations due to their corporate low margin strategy. He did say that they could look into more activities in other areas.

Allman noted that Nancy Lachance of Publix had advised that due to the economy and the absorption of Albertson's and their employees, she did not anticipate any major hiring needs. The climbing local unemployment rate also was contributing to the shrinkage of employment placements for transitioning students. Paul advised that Sunrise experience was indicating major barriers were still transportation and many individuals' lack of flexibility to handle multiple job assignments compared those candidates who could.

Allman requested input into the coming year's goals. A discussion ensued during which time several suggested the need for a mission statement was needed. It was suggested that members submit their ideas to Allman before the next meeting.

Goal ideas from the floor were: Educate and train people to advocate; Do more public awareness to employers like through the Chamber of Commerce; Increase student participation in PIT.

Annie Alvarez of Collier County Parks & Rec advised the group of CCPR Jr. Leadership program where they hoped to train some special needs attendees into counselors in training for their after schools programs.

Next Years' Meetings

The meetings for next year were established:

- 11/17/08
- 1/12/09
- 3/16/09
- 5/18/09

All meetings will be at the same time as in the past, from 1 to 3 with sub committees meeting at 12:30 if appropriate.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:00 p.m.