

CAPS YOUTH PROGRAM

CREATING ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: A SYSTEM OF CARE APPROACH TO TRANSITION

BCRC School to Work Transition Program

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ABOUT BCRC...

We Teach Work with Work™

The mission of BCRC is to provide

the opportunity for vocational growth and independence while respecting the dignity and uniqueness of each individual.

Founded by families of individuals with disabilities and incorporated in 1962.

Locations in Center Twp., Beaver and New Brighton.

Serve approximately 400 individuals annually

BCRC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Adult Pre-vocational and transitional (waiver funded) work program
- Vocational Evaluation
- WIN Services: Supported Employment and Habilitation/ Community Inclusion
- Aurora Psychiatric Rehabilitation & Peer Support
- Work Ready
- ChancesR
- Project Recovery
- Interpreting & Sign Language classes

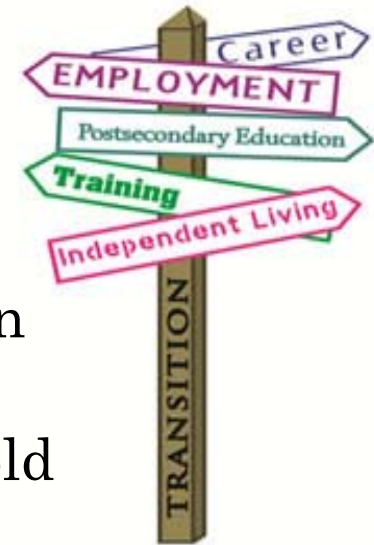


WHAT IS TRANSITION?

- Process of preparing students for life after they leave high school, including participation in post-secondary education or training, employment, and community living. These “post-secondary outcomes” are the driving force behind Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) written for students in high school.
- Begins no later than age 14 as students explore what they want their post-school outcomes to be through career awareness exploration activities. It continues through high school as instruction and community experiences support these outcomes.
- Involves a partnership between the student, the family, school-age services and program providers, post-secondary services and program providers, and local community members. It entails recognizing the student’s current strengths, interests, preferences, and needs, and then identifying what services and supports he or she will need to achieve future success. (<http://www.pattan.net/category/Educational+Initiatives/Secondary+Transition>)



TRANSITION IN BEAVER COUNTY



- BCRC has provided School to Work Transition Services since 1993.
- Vocational services for students 16-21 years old
- Facility and community based services
- Started as a pre-vocational program with community exploration components
- Services added as needs changed for students- increase in those on Autism spectrum
- Program evolved at request of parents and school districts- individualized programming, person centered
- More student driven with a menu of choices to comprise the overall program



WHO WE WORK WITH

- Currently we work with 17 school districts and alternative education placements in Beaver, Allegheny and Butler Counties
- Students are in Life Skills, Learning Support, Multi-Disabled, Emotional Support, and Regular education classrooms
- Students have some of the following diagnosis: Intellectual disability, Autism, mental illness, learning disabilities, drug and alcohol problems, and juvenile justice involvement



PROGRAM COMPOSITION

- Pre-vocational, 1:15 ratio
- Community Inclusion, 1:6 ratio
- CAPS (Creating Alternative Pathways to Success), 1:1 and 1:6 ratio
- Most students have a blended program



WHAT STUDENTS LEARN IN THE PROGRAM

- Work in a group setting
- Earn money while they learn
- Develop positive work habits
- Explore strengths and interests
- Participate in community tours and assessments
- Experience community work sites
- Receive instructional classes on resumes, job applications, job searching, and interviewing
- Students receive services that focus specifically on career development, employment preparation, and obtaining independence and integration in the work place and community.



WHAT STUDENTS LEARN IN THE COMMUNITY

- Communication, socialization, etiquette, and problem solving skills
- Money management
- Explore many different types of occupations and professions
- Volunteer opportunities



NEEDS OF BEAVER COUNTY



- Reluctance of youth with higher academic capabilities, with more “street smarts”, or with mental health, drug and alcohol or juvenile justice issues to participate
- Many students not receiving transition services
- Students “falling through” the cracks
- Needs of students at outside placements not being addressed fully
- Frustration from school personnel and families
- Students failing, dropping out, or having major truancy issues
- Youth graduating without services, a job, or a plan...



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

- Beaver County Behavioral Health receives System of Care grant from SAMSHA in 2008
- BCRC selected as one of the partners to provide transition services to “at risk” youth
- Opportunity to learn about other adult and youth providers and community partners
- Allowed exploration of culture and needs of Beaver County and its youth





CAPS PROGRAM:

(CREATING ALTERNATIVE
PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS)

Choices, not circumstances...determines
success!

EARLY BEGINNINGS-CREATING A NEW PROGRAM

- Utilizes a System of Care approach that is student focused, culturally competent and community based.
- Strives to provide services and supports to meet the challenges of all “At Risk” transition aged students struggling with truancy, mental health, substance abuse, juvenile justice, social and behavioral issues.
- Student specific individualized programming
- Initially funded by BC-SCORES (Beaver County System of Care: Optimizing Resources, Education and Supports) through a SAMSHA grant
- Eventually funded by school districts



CAPS IDENTIFIES A STUDENT'S SPECIFIC VOCATIONAL, ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL GOALS:

- Work Ready Skills Training
- Community Services/Support Exploration
- Job Interview Techniques
- Job Coaching & Job Shadowing
- Senior Project Assistance
- Post Graduation Exploration
- Community Service/Volunteer Opportunities
- Paid Work Opportunities
- Skills needed to keep a job



CAPS STUDENTS:

- Receive an in depth needs assessment to analyze the student's current situation and to determine the appropriate course of action for him/her to accomplish personal/professional success.
- Periodically, a student specific vocational evaluation is administered by BCRC's Evaluation team to further determine a student's unique talents.



WHAT WE LEARNED EARLY ON

- Meet the student where they are
- Discovery process important- develop relationship and trust
- Students responded well to structure and needed consistency
- Students don't know what they don't know
- Very limited view of the world around them
- Understanding their family and community components was essential
- We were not the experts!

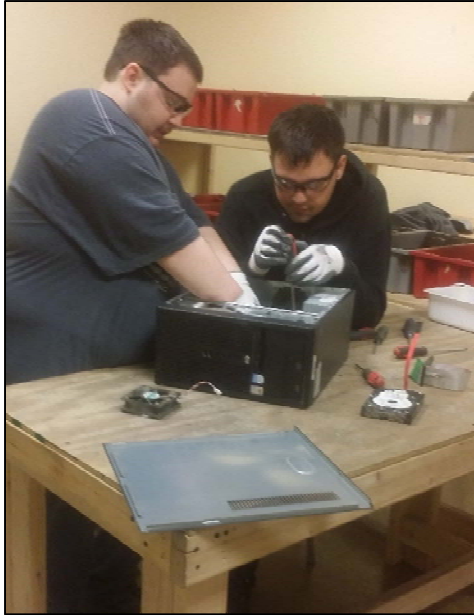


WHAT WE LEARNED EARLY ON

- Groups did not work!
- Need to stress importance of mutual respect
- Identify issues interfering with school and learning
- Work outside the box...way outside the box
- Always have a plan B, or C
- Focus on the future, not the past
- Goal setting needs to start small
- Money is very important
- Have school districts that are supportive and open to new ideas and approaches
- Need to keep it real!



SYSTEM OF CARE APPROACH



SYSTEM OF CARE APPROACH



PARTNERS ARE IMPORTANT

- Natural and community supports
- Career Link & Job Training for Beaver County
- Drug & Alcohol
- Children & Youth Services
- Mental Health Providers
- Local Law Enforcement
- Local Businesses
- Juvenile Services
- Faith based services
- School Personnel
- Truancy Intervention Program
- Family members and neighbors
- Anyone the student identified as an important person in their life



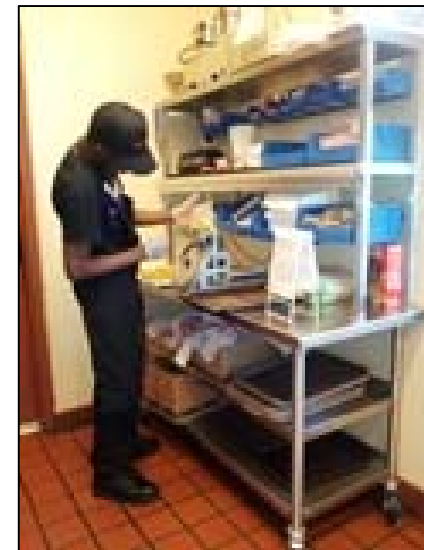
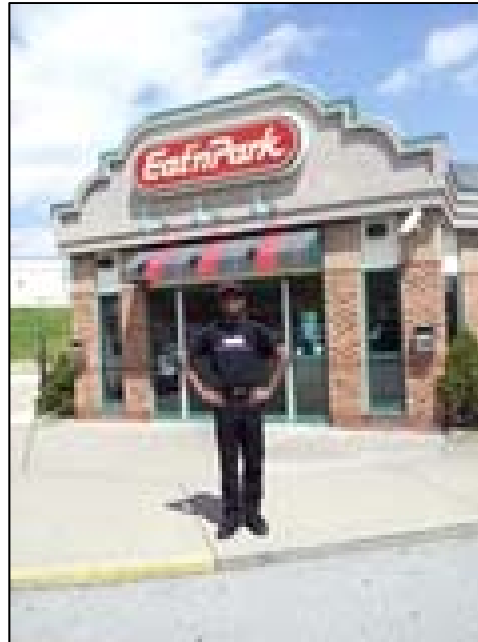
STUDENT EXPERIENCES- BEN



STUDENT EXPERIENCES- SHAY



STUDENT EXPERIENCES-JEROME





STUDENT EXPERIENCES- JEROME

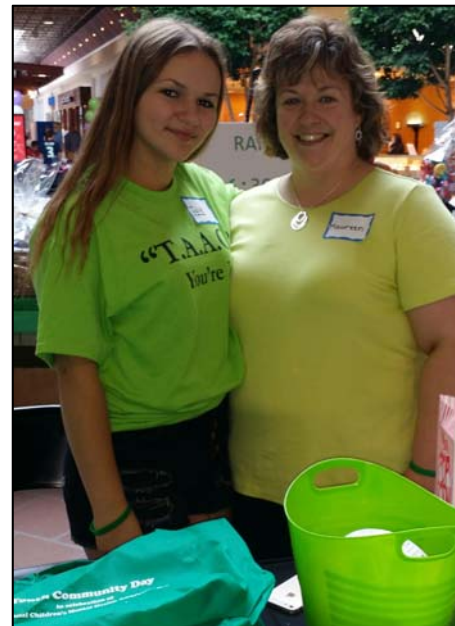


STUDENT EXPERIENCES-JOSH



HELPING BC SCORES GRANT

- New services
 - Youth and Young Adult Psychiatric Rehabilitation
 - Parent Coaching
 - Supported Education
- Collaborative initiative
 - Student Ambassador Program



CONTACT INFORMATION

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