



Supporting **Transition** Professionals

Planning and Preparing for Postsecondary Education for Youth with HFASD

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Post School Outcomes for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

2009 NLTS2 data

Employment

- At time of interview 47%
- Since HS 66%
- Ave. # jobs, length of employment; Types of jobs, job satisfaction

Post-Secondary Enrollment

58% (any postsec)

- 2-yr or community college: 38%
- Voc/business/technical school 27%
- 4-yr college 22%
- Accommodations, self-disclosure, course of study, completion...

Living on Own

11%

- Sexual relationships 21%
- Steady partner 3%
- Financial independence, friendships, community participation, criminal justice systems,

Newman, L., Wagner, M., Cameto, R., & Knokey, A.-M. (2009).

www.nlts2.org/reports/2009_04/nlts2_report_2009_04_complete.pdf

Employment outcomes for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome

- Howlin (2000)
 - Mean employment rate 31%
 - Range 5% to 55%
- Eaves and Ho (2008)
 - HFA and AS
 - 30% of those interviewed were underemployed
- Clavenna-Deane (2009)
 - Adults with AS identified underemployment, unemployment due to social communication, goal setting difficulties

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What does the Research tell us?

- College Enrollment does not always = Adult Employment!
- Training and Ability does not always = Realistic Employment!

WHY?

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Transition To College requires... Quality Transition Planning & Services

- **Results-Oriented Process**
 - Measurable postsecondary goals & plan to get there
 - Age-appropriate transition assessments
- **Academic and Functional Performance**
 - Academic coursework **AND** Independent living
- **Advocacy and Self-determination**
 - Curriculum, opportunities
- **Coordinated Set of Activities**
 - Identify Transition services, course of study & interagency collaboration
- **Planning, Planning Planning** (see resource guides)

High School versus Post-Secondary Ed

High School = STATIC

- Entitlement System
- All Accommodations
- Structured Daily Work
- Weekly Tests
- SPED teacher
- Annual IEP
- Schools identify and provide services
- Life Skills taught at home or possibly by school staff

Post-Secondary = DYNAMIC

- Eligibility System
- Reasonable Accommodations
- Long term projects
- Cumulative Exams
- Disability Support Services
- 504 Accessibility Plan
- Self-disclose to receive services
- Life/Organizational Skills

Compiled from: The MO-AHEAD College Guide www.mo-ahead.org &
Winner, M.G. (2009). Preparing for the Transition to Adulthood. www.socialthinking.com

What Unique Skills are needed for Students with HFASD at the Postsecondary Level?

- Advocacy and Accommodations
- Socialization
- Independent Living Skills
- Academics
- Others Areas....

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Specific Considerations for Students with HFASD

Socialization

- Roommates, Parties, Group Activities, Clubs, Greek

Independent Living

- Finances, Living Skills, Organization

Self-determination

- Awareness, Advocacy, Self-regulation, Problem Solving

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Slide 8

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Owner, 11/3/2009

Advocacy and Accommodations: Reduce and Replace....

- **Reduce Dependency Accommodations**
 - Full Time Para Support
 - Daily Agenda Checks
 - Extended time
 - Reduced workload
- **Replace with Independent Strategies**
 - Chunking/ Planning Charts
 - Self-monitoring checklists
 - PDAs/IPODs
 - Seeking out accommodations

Winner, M.G. (2009). Organizing Strategies to Prepare for Homework and the Real World: An interdisciplinary approach. Presented at KISN Training on October 9, 2009, Overland Park, Ks.

Self-determination

- **Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy**
 - Understanding ASD
 - Identification of Strengths and Support Needs
 - Experiences with Advocacy and Accommodations
 - Support Group Affiliation
- **Goal Setting**
 - Short term
 - Structured
 - Realistic, Achievable Goals
- **Social and Communication Skills**
 - Social Problem Solving Needs
 - Planning and Decision Making Skills

Clavenna-Deane, B. (2009) An Insider's View on the Self-Determination of Adults with Asperger Syndrome. Paper presented at Division of Career Development and Transition Conference, October 29, 2009, Savannah, GA.

Socialization

College Social Life

Roommates

Teamwork Strategies

Parties/Group Activities

College Peer Mentors
Clubs related to interests

Large class sizes

How to join groups
Who and when to chat

Internet Safety

Chat/Facebook

Who to talk to
How to talk
What to say

Texting

When to text

When to stop

Online Dating

How to meet
Where to meet

From: Dillon, M.R. (2007). Creating supports for college students with Asperger Syndrome through Collaboration. *College Student Journal*, 41 (2), 499-504.; and Holtz, K.D., Owings, N.M., & Ziegert, A.K. (2006) *Life Journey Through Autism – Transition Guide*, Retrieved November 3, 2009 from <http://www.researchautism.org/resources/reading/documents/TransitionGuide.pdf>

Independent Living Skills Training

- **Financial Experiences**
 - Financial Decision Making
 - Bills
 - Bill Organization
 - Credit Expectations
- **Life Skills**
 - Chores
 - Laundry
 - Home Organizational Skills
 - E.g.: What to do with junk mail?
 - Multitasking
 - Other duties as assigned

Winner, M.G. (2009). Organizing Strategies to Prepare for Homework and the Real World: An interdisciplinary approach. Presented at KISN Training on October 9, 2009, Overland Park, Ks.

Transition Steps & Timelines

- Junior Year Steps
- Preview the list and identify
 - 3 items your school already does
 - 3 items you would like your school to do
 - 3 items you think may never happen

VCU - RRTC – Going to College Series <http://www.going-to-college.org/planning/list.html>

12/10/2009

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Postsecondary Ed Support Programs Available

College Living Experience

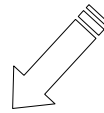
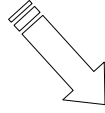
- Provides support in the following areas
 - Academic
 - Independent Living
 - Social
- Locations
 - Austin Ft. Lauderdale
 - Denver Monterey
 - Washington, D.C.
- http://www.cleinc.net/exceptionalities/autism_spectrum_disorders.aspx

TRIO programs – (e.g., KU)

- <http://www2.ku.edu/~eop/trio.shtml>

Where to go from here....

For high school programs.... For postsecondary programs..



- What do we increase?
- What do we decrease?
- What is most critical?
- What is most beneficial?

Resources

- MO-AHEAD College Guidebook
<http://www.moahead.org/MissouriAheadCollegeGuidebook.pdf>
- Unique Preparations for Individuals with ASD
<http://www.autisticplace.com/wiki/index.php?title=Education:Postsecondary>
- Life Journey Through Autism – Transition Guide
<http://www.researchautism.org/resources/reading/documents/TransitionGuide.pdf>
- Self-Determination Curricula
<http://transitioncoalition.org/transition/tcfiles/files/docs/curricula1213220285.pdf/curricula.pdf>
- Autism Asperger Publishing Co.
http://www.asperger.net/index_parenting_teaching_adolescents&adults.htm
- Think College www.thinkcollege.net
- *Opening Doors to ...* Postsecondary Education; Employment; Self-determination Wisconsin Dept. of Ed) <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/transition.html>
- Going to College Series: High Schools “To Do” List: <http://www.going-to-college.org/planning/list.html>