



# TRANSITION AGE YOUTH INSTITUTE



Knowledge is Power:  
Living, Learning & Earning

September 26-27, 2017 • The Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY

## SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00-5:00PM

#### Registration

10:00-10:15AM

#### Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:15AM-12:00PM

#### Keynote Presentation

##### Positive Directions for Transition Age Youth

**Jamiel Alexander**, Senior Fellow, Aspen Institute's Forum for Community Solutions

Hear from our nationally acclaimed keynote speaker, Jamiel Alexander, as he describes E5: A Theory of Social Change. E5 consists of five fundamental elements that will empower and serve as a path in a positive direction for the youth and families we serve.

12:00-1:00PM

#### Lunch

1:00-2:15PM

#### Concurrent Sessions

##### 1: Opportunities and Practices for Transition Age Youth / Young Adults

**Deborah Eley**, MA, MHPS II, Transition Age Youth / Young Adult Program and Policy Developer, NYS OMH

**Shannon Muller-Fortran**, MA, MHPS, HCBS Waiver, NYS OMH

**Sharon Cavanaugh**, Director, Employment and Transition Services, Baker Victory Services

**Andrea Cole**, Project Director, Cornerstone

Join representatives from the NYS Office of Mental Health and provider agencies as they share initiatives intended to better serve the Transition Age Youth and Young Adult population. This session will identify best practices for providing services to TAY/YA and highlight how HCBS waiver services will effect TAY/YA programmatic changes and benefit this population.

##### 2: High School Launch: Preparing Youth for Transition Through De-Stigmatizing Disability and Self-Advocacy

**Alia Roth**, MS.Ed., Manager of Youth & Transition Services, INCLUDEnyc

**Debra Clarke**, MSW, Youth Educator, INCLUDEnyc

An overview of High School Launch, a workshop series that destigmatizes disabilities and empowers youth that has been shared with hundreds of students in NYC public schools. Topics include de-stigmatization; understanding your IEP; how to advocate for modifications and accommodations in high school, college and careers; and how to build self-advocacy skills to work towards independence. Participants will experience a sampling of our workshop activities.

##### 3: Strengthening the Bridge Between Schools and Service Providers

**Charmaine Handler**, MS Ed., Community Employment Specialist, Region 4 WSWHE/HFM, Berkshire UFSD

**Dennis DiDonato**, MBA, WBL Extension, Community Employment Specialist, Region 4, Capital Region, Berkshire UFSD

**Letah Graff**, MS Rehab Counseling, Community Employment Specialist, Region 4, North Country, Berkshire UFSD

Schools are working hard to prepare students for post-secondary success. Join us to learn more about the CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) Credential, Work Based Learning, Employability Profiles, Student Exit Summaries and Transition Interagency Councils. We will conclude with a panel of school leaders who will discuss how their programs are building skills that support post-secondary employment programs.

##### 4: Developing Transition Plans & Practices

**Jessica Woodruff**, LCSW, Director, Jewish Family & Children's Service

**Amanda Mancic-Coe**, B.S. Psychology, Transition Team Lead, Jewish Family & Children's Service

In Arizona, the behavioral health system uses an evidence-based model to actively engage our youth in creating a transition

plan specific to their needs. We will also share information about partnerships we have developed with the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (MMIC) in order to address stigmas around mental/behavioral health in the community and the ways that those stigmas have impacted services.

2:15-2:30PM

#### Break

2:30-3:45PM

#### Concurrent Sessions

##### 5: From Classroom to Career: Job Opportunities Through the Preferred Source Program

**Stephen Towler**, Vice President, AHRC New York City

**Winifred Schiff**, Associate Executive Director for Legislative Affairs, Interagency Council

**Brian Bateman**, Marketing Manager, NYSID

Discover how NYSID's vast membership network provides employment in communities throughout New York State, bridging the gap from school to work.

##### 6: The "I(s)s Have It!" Coordination to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities

**Jeanne Ricigliano**, M.Ed., CESP, RVR-Community Employment Specialist, Center for Human Services Education

**Jennifer Cacioppo**, Mid-West Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center

**Kristine Snyder**, Supervisor of Day Services, Employment Services, and Local School Transition, NYS OPWDD - Finger Lakes Regional Office

One of the key predictors of post school success has been identified as interagency collaboration, yet this is easier said than done. In this presentation partners from across the field of serving individuals with disabilities will discuss the components of the I's - Individualized Education Program (IEP), Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) and Individualized Service Plan (ISP) and how interagency collaboration can assist post-school success for students with disabilities.



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## 7: Effective Supports to Employers and Youth with Disabilities Engaged in Early Work Experiences

**Suzanne Pearson**, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, TAYS; **Stephanie Shaw**, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; & **Bryan Baszczuk**, Integrated Employment Specialist, ACCES-VR

**Michael Miller**, Vice President, Human Resources Operations, Golub Corporation/Price Chopper/Market 32

**Barbara Burian**, Talent Management Coordinator, Golub Corporation/Price Chopper/Market 32

The effort to assist youth with disabilities in obtaining work experiences and quality competitive employment is filled with good intentions. Preconceived notions and the uneasiness which may be experienced when faced with a person or a situation with which you have had little previous exposure can create barriers that interfere with quality integrated and complete work experiences for youth with disabilities. Sensitivity training and sharing of effective strategies can go a long way in eliminating barriers of this kind and achieving greater outcomes. We will dialogue with our co-presenters and the audience, explore training for employers about working with people with disabilities, the challenges with early work experiences that both in-school and out-of-school youth face, and effective supports for students and youth throughout the pathway to employment.

\*Golub Corporation is the 2017 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Statewide Award Winner for New York businesses employing 500 or more people.

## 8: The “Opportunity” in WIOA

**Jan Hennessy**, Senior Program Manager & **Madison Hubner**, Policy Associate, NYATEP

Even though the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law three years ago, many local partners have not had the chance to dig deep into what the legislation offers. NYATEP staff will provide an in-depth overview of critical components of the WIOA Youth Final Rule including opportunities on how to become involved in youth programs and services. Workshop participants are asked to bring examples of how they have been involved with WIOA activities at the local level.

3:45-4:00PM

Break

4:00-5:00PM

### Concurrent Sessions

## 9: Personal Outcomes - How Do You Know What You Don't Know?

**Marlene Pickering**, Program Director, St. Lawrence NYSARC

**Noel Magee**, Program Coordinator, St. Lawrence NYSARC

**Katie Fox**, Youth Advocate

**Jennifer Cole-Warriner**, Behavior Analyst Student, St. Lawrence NYSARC

Transitions is a program that assist youth and adults in transition to better understand their options so they can truly identify their own personal outcomes. We learned that people were being asked to develop goals based on their own desires yet many had no idea what that meant or could mean for them. These life skill sessions help them through actual experience to learn what they want, when they want and how much of it they can and should be doing for themselves – independent living and their rights and responsibilities lay the foundation and the rest coaches them to their true personal outcomes. Come see how you can add these services to your system as well.

## 10: Peer Advocacy and Mentoring

**Yocasta Jimenez**, Social Worker / Founder, Teens Under Construction, Inc.

Young adults ages 15-24 who lack support in education, employment, housing and other basic needs find it difficult to make the transition to adulthood. As a result, some become disconnected youth – young people who are not working, in school or positively engaged otherwise. When youth remain disconnected from positive pursuits our communities bear the burden of a weaker economy, smaller tax base and higher expenditures on public benefits. We can enhance youth employment programs.

## 11: Achieving Community Readiness for WIOA Apprenticeships

**Rich Luby**, COO, EightTen

**Josef Scarantino**, CEO, EightTen

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), apprenticeships and youth mentoring are an effective yet underutilized work-based learning approach that builds crucial skills and establishes pathways to higher levels of employment and wages. While many critical strategies are called for in WIOA, at the heart of every apprenticeship model is Community Readiness. This session will discuss the necessary components of Community Readiness and the metrics required by each stakeholder.

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## SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 CONT'D

## 12: Coordination is Key

Panel of Local Representatives from Vocational Rehab and Local Workforce Entities

**Facilitators:** **Jan Hennessy**, Senior Program Manager & **Madison Hubner**, Policy Associate, NYATEP

This session will feature a panel and Q&A session with representatives from Vocational Rehab and local workforce areas who will relay their strategies on coordinating program activities to serve youth. Panelists will address barriers, challenges, and successes and provide tips on how to initiate partnerships to improve service delivery to young adults. The goal of this session is to provide tactics attendees can take back and try in their local areas.

5:00PM

### NYSID Annual Meeting & Reception



NYSID also invites Transition Age Youth Institute participants to attend its **Annual Meeting** Tuesday evening, **September 26 at 5:00PM**. This event celebrates employment achievements by Preferred Source workers, and will include a special recognition award of a school to work program participant now successfully employed on a NYSID contract.

**Please register for the NYSID Annual Meeting & Reception [HERE](#).**



REGISTER TODAY AT [WWW.NYREHAB.ORG](http://WWW.NYREHAB.ORG)



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### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

7:30AM  
**Registration**

8:30-10:00AM  
**Concurrent Sessions**

#### 13: Optimizing Work Experiences for Youth with Disabilities

**Trish Wilson**, Manager of Employment & Youth Services, Challenge Workforce Solutions

**Melissa Mann**, Manager of Service Coordination & Managed Care, Challenge Workforce Solutions

Challenge offers a summer youth employment program specific to youth with disabilities. These youth are offered a work experience prior to graduating high school. Challenge's Youth Employment Services program is built on a strong collaboration – with schools, vendors, funders, families and the local community and is the number one reason this program is growing and becoming more successful year to year. We learn from our community, listen to our youth and apply those recommendations to our program. Learn how the program supports the services - balancing funding sources, hiring and training staff, offering comprehensive supports to youth both for on the job learning and in their day to day life. Every attendee will leave having gained at least one new idea for your own programs!

#### 14: One Independent Living Center's Response to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

**Lyndsi Wickert**, Youth Transition Coordinator, Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley

In response to the passage of WIOA in July 2014, Independent Living Centers were charged with ensuring that youth transition is an integral part of the services they provide. This workshop will address the youth programs available at the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley, such as assistance with employment, higher education, benefits and housing, as well as give participants the opportunity to share their experiences and offer insight on their needs and interests.

#### 15: Business Engagement - Steps for Success

**Joseph Tedesco**, Workforce Development and Statewide Business Coordinator, Resource Development Unit, New York State Education Department, Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

**Deanna Simon**, Capital Region Business Services Representative, Division of Employment and Workforce Solutions, NYS Department of Labor

**Peter Herrig**, Associate Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, NYS Commission for the Blind

State colleagues from NYS DOL, Commission for the Blind and ACCES-VR will share their work to build and strengthen business engagement to support workforce diversity. Learn how your agency can get more involved and be more engaged with the American Job Centers.

10:00-10:15AM

**Break**

10:15-11:30AM

**Concurrent Sessions**

#### 16: Project SEARCH - Lessons Learned

**Laura Aneiro-McCaffrey**, Assistant Director, AHRC New York City

**Kaitlyn Richardson**, Employment Programs Coordinator, Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities, Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center

Project SEARCH® is a nationally recognized program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are interested in training and preparation for competitive employment. NY has 15 programs and counting across the state. Summit has been able to bring together representatives from multiple programs and the state coordinator to discuss lessons learned and best practices.

#### 17: Welcome HomelSH - Independent Living and Affordable Housing

**Ronald Colavito**, Chief Operating Officer, Access: Supports for Living

**Lisa Hayes**, Vice President, IDD Community Services, Access: Supports for Living

**Stefanie Silvestri**, IDD Community Supports Director, Access: Supports for Living

A discussion on improving options for Independent Living utilizing Affordable Housing. The process to secure supports and capital funding through OPWDD ISH (Integrated Supported Housing) and expanded partnerships with NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal

(HCR) along with private developers. Review of projects' scope and complexities will accompany discussion on staff/training needs, transition planning and special considerations for aging out youth including the use of technology.

11:30AM  
**Adjournment**

## NEW THIS YEAR! Resource Table Opportunities!

Participants of the Transition Age Youth Institute will have access to even more information about the programs and services available in New York State by visiting Resource Tables that will be set up throughout the Institute on **September 26, 2017**.



### Check out who's joining us:

**ACCES-VR** - Assisting individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living through training, education, rehabilitation, and career development.

**Berkshire Union Free School District / Community Employment Specialists** - Region 4 Community Employment Specialists partner with over 145 high schools. They provide training, technical assistance, and resources supporting ACCES-VR services and numerous other transition initiatives to help students succeed!

**Center for Human Services Education at Heritage Christian Services** - CHSE provides an array of training and education services. They are recognized for expertise in employment services, faith and inclusion, school to work transition and leadership development.

**NYS APSE** - The Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), founded in 1988, is the only national organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

**The NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council** - The DDPC is New York State's Developmental Disabilities Council which funds and supports projects and initiatives that help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live independently and participate fully in the community.

**YOUTH POWER!** - YOUTH POWER! Is a New York State network run for and by youth and young adults. We work to amplify youth voice and peer advocacy.

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## COLLABORATORS:

### NEW YORK STATE REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Advocating for and supporting communities and systems that effectively foster opportunities for independence, inclusion, employment, and life-enrichment for people with disabilities.

Michael Seereiter, President & CEO | [www.nyrehab.org](http://www.nyrehab.org) | 518-449-2976



Commission on  
Rehabilitation Counselor  
Certification (CRCC®)

### 8.0 CRC CREDITS PENDING APPROVAL!

The sessions at the 2017 Transition Age Youth Institute have been submitted for approval to award 8.0 Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Credits (CRCs). To ensure that you receive credit, participants must follow the procedures outlined in the CRC Packet located near the Registration Desk. More information coming soon!

### MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN NEW YORK STATE

and its affiliate network work to promote mental health and recovery, encourage empowerment in mental health service recipients, eliminate discrimination, raise public awareness with education, and advocate for equality and opportunity for all.

Glenn Liebman, CEO | [www.mhanys.org](http://www.mhanys.org) | 518-434-0439

### LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

It is the mission of LDA of NYS to create an environment that supports, informs and empowers individuals with learning disabilities throughout their lifespan.

Paulette Purdy, Executive Director, LDA of Central NY | [www.ldacny.org](http://www.ldacny.org) | 315-432-0665

### NYS COALITION FOR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Promoting quality behavioral health services for New York's children with serious emotional disturbance and their families by leading the service provider community in identifying effective practices and participating in planning and implementing a continuum of services that are family-focused, comprehensive, cost-effective, culturally responsive, coordinated and appropriately funded.

Andrea Smyth, Executive Director | [www.cbhny.org](http://www.cbhny.org) | 518-436-8715

### YOUTH POWER!

The New York State network of young people who have been labeled and are seeking change. Together, we have decided to speak up about our experiences because no one knows what it is like for us better than we do. Through peer-to-peer mentoring, we empower young people to be active citizens, aware of government operations, their rights and the ability to use their voices to influence policies, practices, regulation and law. We are young people helping other people, ensuring availability of self-help and peer support while changing systems so that young people get the support they need with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Stephanie Orlando, Executive Director | [www.youthpowerny.org](http://www.youthpowerny.org) | 518-432-0333

### FAMILIES TOGETHER OF NYS

Working on behalf of children, youth and families, serving as a unified voice in shaping policy and shifting attitudes about family involvement.

Paige Pierce, Chief Executive Officer | [www.ftnys.org](http://www.ftnys.org) | 518-432-0333

### NYATEP

Only NYATEP provides the leadership, vision and advocacy for a thriving workforce in New York State. Our focus is ensuring that every New Yorker and employer in New York State has access to the skills they need to work in, and support a robust statewide economy.

Melinda Mack, Executive Director | [www.nyatep.org](http://www.nyatep.org) | 518-433-1200

### NYSACRA

NYSACRA represents the collective voice of its members in promoting the full participation of persons with developmental disabilities in our communities of New York State.

Ann Hardiman, Executive Director | [www.nysacra.org](http://www.nysacra.org) | 518-449-7551



### YOUTH POWER!

