

Prince George's SECAC meeting minutes 1/23/2024

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Janie Payne, chairperson; Jamie Anfenson-Comeau, vice chairperson; Fredarika Fefee, secretary; Jen Gaegler, community outreach; Sarah Wayland, ex-officio advisor.

Others in Attendance: See Attached Screen Capture.

Chairperson Janie Payne opened the meeting virtually at 6:32 p.m. via the Zoom online meeting platform. Ms. Payne introduced the board members present and the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) partners.

Ms. Payne introduced the night's topic, transitions, and tools that are available to help guide students with disabilities through transitional periods.

Upcoming events include: the Parent Empowerment Conference, from March 16 to April 20, and the Second Annual Autism Summit on April 20; the Maryland Special Education Parent Survey, TBA 2024; The Transitional Youth Webinar Series, Feb. 2 and Feb. 20, and the Secondary Transition Expo, Feb. 24 virtual, and May 4 in person; the Special Education College and Career Fair, April 11 at Fairmont Heights H.S.; and Transitioning Youth Fair, April 24.

Ms. Payne introduced Eric Jorgenson, founder of True North Disability Planning.

Mr. Jorgenson spoke about connecting families with resources, applying for services, developing a financial plan and learning about special needs trusts and estate planning.

Mr. Jorgenson said Maryland has a transitioning youth program in that all students who are transitioning at 21 have their first year of services covered.

Mr. Jorgenson said that when your child turns 13 or 14, you really need to buckle down and think about what life looks like when your child ages out or graduates high school.

Mr. Jorgenson said you can request pre-employment transition services from Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).

Mr. Jorgenson listed a number of transition topics to consider, including:

- Start transition planning
- Driver's licence/state ID
- Employment (vocational rehab)
- Introductions to law enforcement
- College planning
- Psychological evaluation

Mr. Jorgenson said Maryland law states that if an individual is receiving Social Security benefits, they can attend a community college tuition free.

Mr. Jorgenson said that when a child turns 18, make sure that they do not have more than \$2,000 in assets in their name (not including 529 or ABLE accounts).

Mr. Jorgenson listed a number of considerations for when a child with a disability is between the ages of 18 and 21, including:

- Services (private pay?)
- Social Security
- Selective Services (if male)
- Employment (vocational rehab)
- Guardianship or Supported Decision Making
- Register to Vote
- Housing
- Freeze Credit
- Additional Education (College, Trades, etc.)

ABLE accounts can put up to \$18,000 per year aside for college, can hold up to \$100,000, do not affect Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility, and may invest that income, Mr. Jorgenson said.

Mr. Jorgenson said that considerations beyond the age of 21 include:

- Employment (vocational services? Agency or self-directed?)
- Personal life
- Parent legacy (What do you want to leave behind when you are gone?)
- Estate Planning (Individual)
- Health Insurance (beyond the age of 26)

Ms. Payne introduced Amy Dwyre D'Agati, senior faculty specialist for the Center for Transition and Career Innovation, College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park.

Ms. D'Agati spoke about TerpsEXCEED, a two-year certificate program for students with intellectual disabilities. This non degree program culminates in a certificate aligned with the students' career interests.

Ms. D'Agati said students participate in career development activities, work experience, internships and paid jobs. All students live on-campus in dormitories.

Ms. D'Agati said TerpsEXCEED is for students ages 18-26 with a documented intellectual disability who are willing and capable of attending and completing Maryland academeing coursework experience, who can manage without one-to-one support, know how to use a cellphone, want to attend a large university, can exhibit appropriate behavior, enjoys engaging in social activities and joining student organizations and can hold to the Student Code of Conduct.

Ms. D'Agati said the TerpsEXCEED program includes academic, social and career supports, individualized goal-setting and tracking, trained RAs, informed professors, peer mentor coordination and collaboration to provide supports, assignments, tests, and classroom learning, on the job training, social and community involvement. It does not provide 24/7 support.

Ms. D'Agati said the application period opens Dec. 1 and closes Feb. 1. A decision is sent April 1. Student and family interviews are conducted. Housing submissions are completed by May 1. Typical University of Maryland tuition, room/board and fees apply. In addition, extra programmatic supports add an additional \$3,750 per semester to costs. Financial aid is available through the Comprehensive Transition Program for students with Intellectual Disability. There is also support for eligible students through DORS.

Ms. D'Agati said that 529 and ABLE funds can also be used for the program.














































Ms. D'Agati stressed that the program is not appropriate for all students. Some students are not ready to be away from home, or to live on their own with a lessening of home supports. Students must take on greater responsibility for themselves and adhere to the Student Code of Conduct. The program does not provide 24/7 support.

Ms. Payne opened the meeting up to questions from attendees.

Following questions, Ms. Payne thanked the guest speakers, attendees and PGCPS representatives for attending. She said the next meeting will be held on Feb. 27, and the topic will be Executive Functioning Skills.

Ms. Payne thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Q Find a participant







































- JA** Jamie Anfenson-Comeau (Me)  
- MT** Marsie Torchon (Host)   
-  Eric Jorgensen (Co-host)   
-  Amy D'Agati (Co-host)   
- BH** Beth Hayre (Co-host)   
- MB** michelle blakey (Co-host)   
- YY** Yvette Young (Co-host)   
- ZD** Zuleika Dudley-Birruete (Interpreter)   
-  Alita-Geri Carter  
- AP** Angela Payne  
- AS** ANGELA SALMERON  
- AR** Ashley Robinson  
- AB** Ayo Bello  
-  Camille Johnson  
- CL** Casey Labrack  
- CR** Cheryl Riddick  
- CR** CHERYL ROTHWELL  

























Invite

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Q Find a participant

- CR** CHERYL ROTHWELL  
-  Crystal Clark  
- CL** cynthia lopez 
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-  Doralie Palamos  
- E** Erika Stevenson  
- FF** Fredarika Fefee  
- JP** janie payne  
- JG** Jen Gaegler  
-  Joni Turner  
- KA** Karen Andrews  
-  LaKeisha Swan  
- L** Lauren Void  
- LB** Liz Burley  
- LR** Lynette Russell  
- MM** Maritza Merida (Spanish int... (Interpreter) ES  
-  Melonee Clark  

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-  Nicole London  
-  Pamela Talley  
-  Paulette Davis  
-  Ronda Bullock  
-  Roukiatou Kirakoya  
-  Sarah Wayland (she/her)  
-  Trinell Bowman  

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