



NH Governor's Commission on Disability

CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE 3.28.18

TRANSITIONAL FAIRS GO A LONG WAY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION: "NOW WHAT?"

Concord, NH--You've heard of country fairs and medieval fairs, but do you know what a Transition Fair is?

"A Transition Fair is a terrific event. It is meant to connect students with disabilities, and their families, to resources for building successful lives after high school," explains Lorrie Ripley of the Client Assistance Program. "It's a collaborative effort with educators, families, students, community members and groups, all organized around the pivotal 'Now what?' question of a transitional youth."

Delivering exposure to community resources, the Transition Fair provides content and connections that are most likely to benefit transitioning youth. That may include information from employment support agencies, benefit specialists, legal counsel, advocacy organizations, community resources, and representatives from community colleges, universities and career and technical schools.

"Once an individual with disabilities graduates, or in some cases turns 21, the responsibility shifts. No longer is the school responsible for a needs plan that will assist a student to succeed, develop skills, or live independently, but that now rests with the student and family. That's a big shift and it can be startling if you are unprepared. That's why I say it's never too early to start looking ahead. Start thinking about the student's aptitude, what is needed for independent living, what are their likes, and what kind of employment choices are available," said Ripley.

The Client Assistance Program is prepared to target the employment issues for a transitional youth and to share information about a variety of powerful programs, such as [STABLE NH](#).

"Lorrie Ripley of CAP attends quite a few Transition Fairs. It's a good idea to start a conversation with her and I guarantee she will give you food for thought," said Chuck Saia, Governor's Commission on Disability's Executive Director.

To find out the date and location of a Transition Fair in your area, contact your school's Guidance Counselor. For a discussion about employment issues, contact Lorrie at 603.271.2773 or lorrie.ripley@gcd.nh.gov.

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