Panel Discussion

Collaboration at Its Best

Introductions - Roles and Responsibilities

Carla Johnson, ESC 11
Jim Knauss and Rosla Hocker, TWC-VR Region 2
Pattie Noonan, KU
What does the research tell us about collaboration?
Collaboration Strategies Yield Results!

1. Better access to services
2. Higher quality services
3. Improved staff relationships
4. Cross-fertilization of ideas
5. Shared responsibility and expenses
6. Decreased duplication of efforts
Transition Teaming: 26 Strategies for Interagency Collaboration

Pattie Noonan

A publication of the Division on Career Development and Transition of the Council for Exceptional Children
Collaboration Defined

• Abramson and Rosenthal (1995) defined collaboration as
  “a fluid process through which a group of diverse, autonomous actors (organizations or individuals) undertakes a joint initiative, solves shared problems, or otherwise achieves common goals.”

• Is this how we typically view interagency collaboration? Why or why not?
HOW?

1. Speak a common language
2. Learn services and agencies outside your own
3. Partner with others to accommodate and meet their charge also
4. Employ action-oriented behaviors
5. Work through past and current issues
6. Believe that your collaboration efforts will positively impact students
Why did increasing collaboration become a priority?

What influenced the decision (e.g., data and legislation)?

1. Share summarized data
2. Describe legislation
What did you do to assist in improving collaboration between the agencies?

What steps did you take? Who was involved?

1. Sample vision images and describe process.
2. Sample completed agency worksheet.
Teams Working
Local Level Vision Images
Regional Level Vision Image
The purpose of this day is to promote collaboration and joint planning.

1. What are the strengths of the working relationship between our agencies?
   - TWC has much to offer.
   - Communication
   - Already established relationships
   - Accessibility
   - Presence on campus

2. What are concerns voiced by students and families about accessing educational and agency services?
   - Lack of knowledge and understanding of services.
   - Disconnect between the Center & VR.
   - Parent buy-in & trust
   - Student/Parent initiating contact.

3. What are barriers and challenges we encounter while attempting to collaborate?
   Scheduling/Time
   Perceived notions
   Resources

4. What ways in which we could improve our working relationship? Name 2-3 specific activities we will work on together to improve our ability to collaboratively serve students and families.
   - Use a checklist to ensure we stay on target to meet objectives (Strategy #17) - Develop checklist first
   - Community mapping & understanding resources in area.
   - Transition Fair - get sponsors, partner w/sage

5. How does our work together help students to become college and career ready?
   - Teacher and collaboration will ensure ongoing connections to post-secondary settings and resources.
   - Our work provides a springboard for students to jump off of.
Summary of Planned Activities

• Strategy #2: Increase Awareness & Knowledge of Adult Agency Services (6 teams)
• Strategy #3: Gain Administrator Buy-In (2 teams)
• Strategy #5: Communicate Information About Transition to Local Community (2 teams)
• Strategy #6: Communicate Information About Transition to Families (8 teams)
• Strategy #7: Coordinate with Co-Workers to Provide Transition Services (1 team)
• Strategy #8: Coordinate with Agency Representatives to Provide Transition Services (4 teams)
• Strategy #9: Participate in Professional Development Related to Transition (2 teams)
• Strategy #11: Develop a Community Transition Team (4 teams)
• Strategy #12: Identify a Shared Vision (1 team)
• Strategy #13: Conduct Effective Community Transition Team Meetings (6 teams)
• Strategy 15: Conduct community resource mapping (7 teams)
• Strategy 16: Host a community conversation (2 teams)
• Strategy 17: Determine team structure—critical representation, team organization (1 team)
• Strategy 18: Engage in action-oriented teaming—annual planning, action planning, short-term projects (4 teams)
• Strategy 19: Come to consensus (1 team)
Activity: Discussion

In groups of 2-3, discuss your answers to these two questions:

1. What is your professional history related to secondary transition and interagency collaboration?

2. What is your personal history related to secondary transition and interagency collaboration?

2 minutes
How did teams react to the working days?

What did teams do as a result of the time together?

1. Share evaluation data summary—direct quotes from the days.
2. Show 1-2 Flipgrid plans of action
Evaluation Data and Comments

- “Keep giving us a platform to collaborate”
- “Hearing what others are completing and time to discuss with each other is awesome”
- “The VR counselor and school are collaborating well”
- “Provide ongoing collaborative meetings on transition like this so we can all learn”
- “Better collaboration and continued open lines of communication”
- “Understanding of each other policy and procedures”
- “Meeting together was so helpful”
Picture of Region 2 Groups Using Technology App Flipgrid

Wendy B.

RACHEL A H.

Ebony H.

Emily V.

Kristin S.

Amy R.

Tyson P.

Maricela S.

Jennifer Y.

[Images of people and technology]
Sample Video Action Plans: https://flipgrid.com/94ba5ff3

1. Team Living Your Best Life https://flipgrid.com/2beaf5a5
2. Comets Team https://flipgrid.com/311fe152
3. https://flipgrid.com/b48135e3
4. Frisco and Prosper https://flipgrid.com/c6ffed55
Activity: Discussion

In groups of 2-3, discuss your answers to these questions:

1. What is your vision for youth and adults with disabilities in your community?

2 minutes
What were some challenges during your collaboration efforts?

What did you do to overcome these challenges?
Barriers Identified by the local teams

1. High time commitment
2. Lack of accountability (of team members and team as whole)
3. Poor and inaccurate perceptions of entities by school staff, agencies, students, and parents
4. Turf issues - entities are unwilling to partner
5. Nonexistent or ineffective procedures for collaborating among agencies
6. Lack of administrative support
7. Legal barriers such as inability to share information
8. Lack of clear outcomes
Sample Creative Solutions: Lack of Administrative Support

- Highlighting the successes
- Empowering parents with knowledge
- Include admin as part of team meeting
- Include goals included in SES campus goals
- Smaller meetings to strategize
- Connect it to current campus improvement goals
- Connect to C.I.P. &/or District I.P.
- Invite admin to classrooms
- Connect goals
- Do an informative meeting/or email to let others be in the know so they can see how they are needed

- Team/Coordinator per region
- Visit other districts
- Connect vision for transition to campus improvement plans
- Offer suggestions for improvement to admin
- Connect activity to campus activity goals
- Mini presentation to principal – laying it all out there
- Prepare a proposal of benefits and what is needed to accomplish goals
- Education on transition goals
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What are your next steps?

How will you help sustain these efforts?

Survey Results
Show example FlipGrid Team Update Video
Sample Video Updates:
https://flipgrid.com/94ba5ff3

• Collin County EmployAbility Coalition: https://flipgrid.com/e709fc8b
• MISD: https://flipgrid.com/f5b092de
• Mabank High School: https://flipgrid.com/5180410f
Activity: Discussion

In groups of 2-3, discuss your thoughts on this question:

1. Is there anything that you’ve heard that you want to do?
Questions for Jim, Carla, Rosla, or Pattie?