

## Transition Timeline

### A Guide for Families and Individuals When Transitioning to Adulthood

#### Age 14 - 15

- Transition aspect is added to the IEP. This involves a plan for post-secondary goals/plans. If the County Board of DD is not already involved with your family, now would be a good time include them in this process. Someone from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) can also be included at this time to begin process from career exploration. Inviting these two agencies to your individual's IEP meeting will help with the planning process and are good resources to have.
- Now is a good time to begin talking about graduation. A discussion regarding your individual graduating at age 18 or age 22 should be had with your SSA from the County Board and/or with a representative from the school.
- Your individual's SSA will want to meet in a separate meeting from the IEP meeting. During this time a deeper discussion will be done regarding individual's goals and dreams. A Transitional Individual Service Plan (TISP) will be started at this time. Each year these goals will be reviewed and updated as new information is discovered along the way.
- OOD will discuss options of summer work programs and career exploration opportunities.

#### Age 16

- Reach out to the County Board or your individual's SSA, if not already receiving services.
- This is the time to decide if your individual will graduate at 18 or stay on an IEP until 22.
- OOD should be brought in if not already involved. They have options for summer work experiences and career exploration.
- Begin to think about the various options for job exploration, like Four County Career Center

#### Age 17 - 18

- Begin investigating need for guardianship and other options and see what is best for your individual once they turn 18. Your SSA can help answer any questions you have.
- Good time to begin long term residential discussion
- OOD will continue to explore job opportunities. A decision should be made at this time if your individual plans to go to Four County to participate in their programs or not.
- Decision should be made by this time on whether your individual will graduate at 18 or wait until 22. Your individual can have a "social" graduation where they can walk with their graduating class. They would not receive their diploma at this time. This option is available when the plan is to graduate at age 22.
- Discuss with the SSA any other concerns or questions that come up. SSA will sit down and review skills, abilities, wants and needs for your individual.

## **Age 18 - 22**

- Much depends on where your individual is in the transition process.
- Continue working with OOD
- Begin work with Four County, if enrolled
- Continue working with County Board SSA, reviewing individuals goals, wants, and needs. Making any adjustments along the way. SSA will help answer questions that arise and give direction when needed to the individual and the family.
- Encourage your individual to get involved in Advocacy group
- At age 21, the transitional SSA will begin developing an ISP with your individual. This process is in preparation for transitioning to adult. An adult SSA will be introduced towards the end of this process to keep the transition going smoothly.
- Families should have long term residential discussion
- Employment options to be looked at for consideration during this time are:
  - Community employment with supports as necessary
  - Day programming (ADS services)
  - Vocational Habilitation (VH services)

## **Things Families can be Doing Throughout this Whole Process:**

- Be talking with your individual throughout the process and asking them what they want.
- Assign chores at home to help teach skills and independence
- Stay connected with your individual's team: school, SSA, OOD, and anyone else that could be included along the way.
- As hard as it is for any parent, be thinking ahead. Plan for the future.
- Have a friend or family member as a backup in case something happens to you. Have a plan in place for where your loved one will go. At least begin having the discussion.
- Ask questions. If you are not sure what to do or which direction to go in, ASK. Your individual's team is here to be your support as much as they are here for your loved one.
- Sometimes you need to think outside the box. Get creative with assisting your loved one to have a good life. Use the resources available (like your loved one's team) to help you.
- Remember you are not in this alone.