

***New Community Opportunities Center at ILRU  
Presents...***



**Expanding CIL Capacity through Youth Transition Services:  
Collaborating with School Districts and Vocational Rehabilitation**

***How the 3 Centers are Involved with Vocational Rehabilitation and  
School Districts***

**August 12, 2014**

**1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.**

***Presenters:***

**Peter Darling & Maureen O'Donnell**

**Seth Hoderewski & Joe Michener**

# **Peter Darling & Maureen O'Donnell**

## **Granite State Independent Living**

# School Funding

- Engagement in Learning and Return back to school
- Academic Credits – 100+ credits a year
- Transition Services
- Increase in Graduation Rate
- Decrease in drop-out rate
- Funding from other districts

# Vocational Rehabilitation Funding

- Early Transition Planning
- Career Assessments
- Work Experience
- Job Readiness Skills Training
- Informational Interviews, Job Shadows, Labor Market Surveys and Situational Assessments

## GSIL's Approach (Schools)

- 20+ Year History with Schools
- Positive Relationships
- Need for program skills, training and education
- Qualified Staff:
  - Expertise in Employment, Career Development, job supports, special education and wrap around services
  - Knowledge in Special Education, Transition Services, IEP's, 504 plans

## GSIL's Approach (Schools), cont'd.

- Experience with Extended Learning Opportunities, (ELO's)
- Well connected with the community
- Positive Outcomes
- Person Center Planning

# GSIL's Approach (Vocational Rehabilitation)



- 30+ history
- Certified Staff (ACRE) Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators – 2 Independent Living Service Coordinators
- Awards: NH Community of Practice, NHSRC , VR – Job Developer
- 1000+ placements
- GSIL – consciously joining the IL and Employment programs under one administrative unit.

# GSIL's Approach (Vocational Rehabilitation), cont'd.



- Collaboration – Collaboration – Collaboration
  - All activities
  - PWI
  - Earn & Learn Opportunities
  - WIPA
  - SILC/SRC/SBVI
- Soft Skills are key Employment (VR) concepts and Empowerment and Choice are key CIL concepts – and we have found that they incorporate many of the same ingredients.



# Staffing – **TEAM** is the key to success



- Staff Roles and Responsibilities
  - Referral
  - Curriculum Development/Schedule
  - Exit Planning
  - Work Site and Community Partner Development
  - Transition Support
- Point Person at each School
- Advisory Group
- Location

# Educational and Independent Living Services

- School is involved in the entire process
- Participation: Application and Referral process, Transportation, Exit Plan Meetings, Advisory Group
- Documentation of Disability Review/Transcripts
- Development of Extended Learning Opportunities, ELOs
  - Competencies
  - Highly Qualified Teacher-Mid term evaluations and granting of credits
  - Curriculum: Career Exploration, Life Skills, Health, Fitness, English, Personal Finance, Computer Technology
- An Independent Living Service Coordinator is part of the instructional team.

# Employment Services

- NHVR has taken a very conscious roll in helping to develop a strong youth transition approach for all E&L students.
- They are currently choosing to financially support 5/6 students in each session.
- NHVR will certainly work with any student who is referred for service and many former graduates will be served after their participation in Earn & Learn.
- NHVR and GSIL are involved in other statewide initiatives to support stronger transitioning of students with a disability.

## Contact

### **Peter Darling, VP Community Economic Development Services**

163 Manchester Street, Suite 3, Concord, NH 03301

Office: (603) 228-9680 (800) 826-3700 V/TTY: (888) 396-3459 [pdarling@gsil.org](mailto:pdarling@gsil.org)

### **Maureen O'Donnell , Director of Educational Services**

60 Rogers Street, Manchester, NH 03103

Office: (603) 518-4600 V/TTY (888)396-3459  
[modonnell@gsil.org](mailto:modonnell@gsil.org)

# **Joe Michener & Seth Hoderewsi**

## **Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living**

# VR / LVCIL partnership: Career Path Services— Skills Training

- An 8-week intensive training focused on preparing for competitive employment
- Models a competitive work environment
- Includes group and individual activities
- Participants attend group activities, seminars, trainings, & community work experiences 3 days/week, 6.5-7 hours/day
  - Topics include teamwork, meeting employer expectations, time management, personal hygiene, conflict resolution, etc.
- Participants receive individual services on alternate days
  - Services include person-centered planning, resume development, etc.

# Career Path Services: Community-Based Work Assessments

- Planned one-on-one work experiences in which a young adult goes to a work site and explores a job for a few hours.
- Objective is to provide an opportunity to explore an area of interest and assess supports needed to be successful
- Young adults complete 2-4 assessments, which are determined by their interests/skills during their Person-Centered Plans.
- The goal is to complete the assessments within 4 months

# Career Path Services: Job Development

- Develop a plan based on interests/skills as determined during assessments and person-centered planning
- Participants partner with staff to pursue competitive employment opportunities that match their interests/skills
- There is no standard for the length of time it takes to find a job



# Career Path Services: Job Coaching & Extended Services

- Support on the job on an as-wanted / as-needed basis for the first 90 days of employment
- Support provided to learn and master tasks, increase work rate and quality, organize tasks, problem solve, develop natural supports, etc.
- Fading
- Follow Along (a.k.a. Extended Services)

# Career Path Services: Project SEARCH

- Chosen provider of assessment services and job coaching for High School students who are participants in Project SEARCH, a nationally recognized program for students in their final year of high school
- Program provides internships for students to explore their vocational interests and improve their work skills

# Schools / LVCIL partnership: LIFE Services



- Services based off of IEP and person-centered planning
  - A la carte menu of services including: Skills Training, job development, job coaching, transition house skills, life coaching, travel training, etc.
- Can incorporate aspects of S2L and/or Career Path
- Participants can attend group activities and/or receive individual services. Students can attend every day or at different times during the week (depending on interests, school schedule, and needs)

# Schools / LVCIL partnership: S2L Services



## S2L Group

- Peer-vote leadership
- Regular meetings
- Group Goal driven
- Seminars
- Volunteering
- Advocacy/legislation
- Team building activities
- Social activities
- Fundraising
- Parents meeting

## RWLV

- 6-week summer program
- Mainly S2Lers
- Employment-based
- Employment skills
- Volunteering
- Seminars
- Various work groups
- PSU conference
- Micro-business

## Schools / LVCIL partnership: S2L Services, cont'd.

- “Have you thought about...Life?” Conference
- “Have you thought about ...Life?” Presentation
- Speaking – local, statewide, and beyond
- Numerous local and statewide partners: PYLN, Department of Ed., IU's”
- Transition Advocacy
- Transition Legislation
- Consultation

# LVCIL Partnerships: VR/Schools/Community



- Relationships
  - Local VR and LVCIL already had a long-standing and positive relationship
  - Outreach efforts and word-of-mouth, including referrals from other community agencies
  - Often sought out by families, schools, other community agencies, and even lawyers
- Success of S2L program provided framework and referrals for all other programs (Career Path and LIFE)

# LVCIL Partnerships: VR/Schools/Community, cont'd.



- Why LVCIL?
  - IL Philosophy
  - Person-centered planning
  - Holistic approach (Core services and more)
  - LVCIL culture and environment
  - Best practices
  - Flexible – expectations are different for every participant, partner and/or funder
  - Qualified, dedicated, and team-oriented staff
  - LVCIL reputation

# Contact



Seth Hoderewski

[SethHoderewski@lvcil.org](mailto:SethHoderewski@lvcil.org)

Joe Michener

[JoeMichener@lvcil.org](mailto:JoeMichener@lvcil.org)

Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living

Office: (610) 770-9781

TTY: (610) 770-9789



# New Community Opportunities Attribution



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