

Summary of *The 2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan*

Compiled by Michigan Transition Outcomes Project

February 2015

The 2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan: A Federal Interagency Strategy was developed in response to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendation to improve the provision of transition services through enhanced coordination among multiple programs that support transitioning youth with disabilities and their families. The interagency plan is framed by the following vision:

Our vision is that all youth programs are based on universal design principles so that youth, regardless of their individual challenges, including disability, are equipped to pursue a self-directed pathway to address their interests, aspirations, and goals across all transition domains including community engagement, education, employment, health, and independent living that will ultimately result in positive, everyday social inclusion.

Vision Themes

- Begin with the end user in mind
- Strength-based research, policies and practices
- Universal Design for Learning
- Set high expectations
- Options to live successfully in the community
- Person-centered planning
- High-quality professional development
- Continuity of service and access to information

Five Compatible Outcome Goals

Federal programs serving all youth transitioning to adult life should be universally designed and accessible in order to ensure that youth with disabilities and others have equal opportunity to:

- **Access health care services and integrated work-based experiences in high school** to better understand how to manage their physical, mental, and emotional well-being, to enhance their job-readiness skills and career planning, and to make a successful transition from school to work and greater independence;
- **Develop self-determination and engage in self-directed individualized planning** to prepare them for postsecondary education, health care management, vocational training, and/or employment;
- **Be connected to programs, services, activities, information, and supports** for which they are eligible that prepare them to self-manage their health and wellness, pursue meaningful careers, become financially literate and capable, and make informed choices about their lives;
- **Develop leadership and advocacy skills** needed to exercise informed decision-making and personal community leadership; and
- **Have involvement from families and other caring adults with high expectations** to support them in achieving their goals.

(Excerpted from *The 2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan*, p. 8)

What is transition?

“Transition is the period of time when adolescents are moving into adulthood and are often concerned with planning for postsecondary education, careers, health care, financial benefits, housing, and more. Research shows that regardless of eligibility and access challenges, there is a need to provide community of service for youth from ages 14 or 16 to ages 25 or 30 across child and adult-service systems.”

(Excerpted from *The 2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan*, p. 10)



Federal Partners in Transition

Department of Education (ED)

- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)
- Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)
- Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE)
- Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

Department of Health and Human Services

- Administration for Community Living (ACL)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Department of Labor (DOL)

- Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
- Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)
- Wage and Hour Division (WHD)

Social Security Administration

- Office of Research, Demonstration, and Employment Supports (ORDES)



Partners Approach

- **Government Accountability Office (GAO)** – executive action and recommendations
- **Federal Partners in Transition (FPT) Workgroup** including political, senior executive and career staff from four federal agencies
- **Co-chairs** – Katy Martinez, Assistant Secretary of ODEP at DOL and Michael K. Yudin, Acting Assistant Secretary of OSERS at ED
- **FPT Strategic Planning Committee** including career and senior executive staff from four federal agencies
- **2020 Federal Youth Transition Plan** – a strategic plan for increasing interagency coordination and improving outcomes including:
 - Vision
 - Vision Themes
 - Assumptions
 - Outcome Goals
 - Interagency Strategies
 - Policy Priorities
- **Obtained Public Input** – hosted a two-week, national online dialogue, “Join the Conversation for Change: Help shape federal agency strategies for helping youth and young adults with disabilities successfully transition from school to work.”
- **Gathered supporting documentation** – consulted internal experts to ensure that the lessons learned from current practice and the results of research inform execution of the 2020 Plan
- **Resource mapping** of agencies’ policies, procedures, programs, eligibility requirements, program goals, allowable activities, outcome measures
- **Examined transition frameworks** – examined a variety of the agencies’ research-based and evidence-based youth transition frameworks
- **Developed framework to improve data collection, data sharing and use** – established Government Data Sharing Community of Practice forum