

STRONG PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
STAFF DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Create a communications strategy to effectively and efficiently deliver updates on the implementation of the planning process, findings and recommendations, and other developments to (Obj1.5, 1.5.1, 1.5.2):

- Inform and educate families
- Inform and educate families and provide opportunity for input and participation in the STRONG Partnership planning process
- Inform Neighborhood Place directors, staff, and community councils; and Neighborhood Partner agencies
- Inform other stakeholders, including (but not limited to): local and state government leadership, elected officials, health and human services organizations/agencies, family support groups, current and potential funders, etc.
- Educate the community

Develop a plan for training in coordination with the Neighborhood Place Training Committee:

A. Define the Audience; Determine their Training Needs (Obj 2.3/ 5.1-5.2):

Identify the groups and individuals that most likely will be providing referrals and/or direct services and supports for transition and self-determination related services; develop survey methods (including key informant interviews and focus groups); identify and recruit the groups and interviews who will be surveyed. Assess the:

- Knowledge, attitudes, beliefs about transition as a developmental process across the life span and the principles of self-determination
- Knowledge about the services and supports that exist in the community to support transition and self-determine
- Perceived accessibility of these services and supports
- Ways in which they identify individuals and families who would benefit from services and supports for transition and self-determination
- Ways in which they offer support for transition and self-determination currently in their practice and/or would like to do so in the future.

B. Develop a Training Plan to include (Obj 5.3-5.5):

- Training needs, priorities, and desired outcomes
- Content and methods
- Qualified trainers
- A schedule of training to be delivered within the Neighborhood Place framework to support the implementation of the transition resource center
- An evaluation plan to assess training effectiveness and additional training needs

STRONG PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Explore funding opportunities and develop proposals/ grant applications to support the transition resource center's operation and other transition and self-determination related activities (Obj 6.3, 6.3.1)

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COMMUNITY ASSETS MAPPING

Identify and develop a database of existing state and local resources in the public and private sectors (Obj 2.5)

Review federal and state laws for publicly funded programs and compile a detailed summary of (Obj 2.4):

- Funding streams
- Legal and policy barriers to achieving self-sufficiency
- Eligibility criteria and other program requirements that may pose an obstacle to families, and especially to those who are in poverty or from racial, ethnic, or cultural minorities

Conduct an analysis of existing transition resources and determine current utilization by targeted families in each of the three NP areas (Obj 3.2)

Working in coordination with the Transition Life Mapping committee, compare the existing availability and accessibility of services and supports to those that ideally would be in place to support transition and self-determination at developmental intervals across the lifespan (Obj 2.6)

Working in coordination with the Transition Life Mapping committee, identify gaps in services and supports and/or barriers that impede access (Obj 2.6)

Working in coordination with the Transition Life Mapping committee, identify existing community assets and strengths that could support transition and self-determination but have not yet been mobilized.

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TRANSITION LIFE MAPPING

Develop and deliver an educational session to the STRONG Partnership, which helps the Partnership to define transition and self-determination and leads to the development of a shared vision and goals for the transition resource center (Obj 2.1-2.2)

Identify the types of services and supports that ideally should be available to promote development of the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors required for successful transition and the practice of self-determination across the lifespan (Obj 2.2)

Conduct focus groups and key informant interviews among individuals with disabilities and their families in the three NP areas to determine the level of awareness about transition as a developmental process across the lifespan to ascertain (Obj 2.3; 3.3, 5.1):

- Awareness of transition and self-determination, including personal attitudes and skills that support successful transition and self-determination
- Perceived barriers to achieving transition and self-determination, including cultural barriers
- Awareness of services and supports in the community that currently exist to support transition and self-determination
- Perceived accessibility of these services and supports
- Ways in which individuals and families could be assisted to achieve successful transition and self-determination

Working in coordination with the Community Assets Mapping committee, compare the existing availability and accessibility of services and supports to those that ideally would be in place to support transition and self-determination at developmental intervals across the lifespan (Obj 2.6)

Working in coordination with the Community Assets Mapping committee, identify gaps in services and supports and/or barriers that impede access (Obj 2.6)

Working in coordination with the Community Assets Mapping committee, identify existing community assets and strengths that could support transition and self-determination but have not yet been mobilized.

STRONG PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

OUTREACH, RECRUITMENT, AND INCLUSION

Determine who should be involved in the STRONG planning process (Obj1.2)

Recruit individuals with disabilities and their families who live in the three NP areas to participate in the process (Obj 1.2- 1.3) (May include developing and implementing recruitment strategies, etc. to target specific audiences)

Act as mentors to individuals with disabilities and their families and other stakeholders who are new to the process and would like this assistance

Orient new members to the process as they join the Partnership and/or committees

Monitor the process to assure inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families who live in the three NP areas and other key stakeholders (Obj 1.2)

Develop criteria that will be used in determining the effectiveness of the process in providing a forum for meaningful participation; whether it meets stakeholder expectations; and the degree to which it is family-friendly, family-directed and supports family participation, etc. (Obj 7.2)

On a quarterly basis, assess the level of participation in the STRONG Partnership at all levels of activity (including committees, focus groups and key informant interviews) of individuals with disabilities and their families who live in the three NP (Obj 7.3)

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