

# Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes-September 20, 2017

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

## 2. Presentation

**Kelly Scanlon and Morgan McCully-Workforce and Education Program,  
Catholic Charities of WNY**

[Kelly.scanlon@ccwny.org](mailto:Kelly.scanlon@ccwny.org), 694-7749, ext . 2964

[Morgan.McCully@ccwny.org](mailto:Morgan.McCully@ccwny.org)

Catholic Charities offers High School Equivalency (HSE) programs and employment programs in 4 locations in Niagara County for out of school youth, ages 16-24. The main location is 1465 Payne Ave., North Tonawanda. Other locations are in Lewiston, Niagara Falls and Lockport. Case management services are also part of the program to help students overcome barriers.

### HSE prep/tutoring:

Case management services provided

Utilizes an Individualized Education Service Strategy (IESS) to create lessons based on needed areas

Small class settings, am or pm classes, varies by location

Will help facilitate postsecondary plans for students

### Employment/job readiness may include:

Career assessment

Resumes, interview prep

Job-search resources

Paid internships (150 hours)

Note: this can also serve students who have graduated but have no job or post-secondary plans

**Susan Diemert- ON BOCES Adult Education/Literacy**

[sdiemert@onboces.org](mailto:sdiemert@onboces.org) 731-6800, ext. 3003

**Jessica Bush**

Susan and Jessica spoke about the **National External Diploma Program** as an alternative to the current TASC. This program is approved by NYSED which issues the diploma.

The program is available for students 18 and older:

Based on 8 competencies: Financial Literacy, Health Literacy, Civic Literacy and Community Participation, Consumer Awareness, Geography and History, Science, Cultural Literacy and Twenty-First Century Workplace

Web based for assignments and research  
The program consists of a portfolio of small projects, no final exam  
Students must meet with an assessor weekly to review assignments/progress  
100% mastery of each assignment is required, can re-do assignments

Self-paced, flexible scheduling  
Great for students who are motivated and dedicated  
Works well for students who had an IEP and a 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level  
Tutors and computer lab available at BOCES Adult Education Sites

**Elizabeth Loughran-Amorese, Erie 1 BOCES RSE TASC,  
(716) 821-7518, [eloughran-amorese@e1b.org](mailto:eloughran-amorese@e1b.org)**

Liz reported that NYS is out of compliance regarding transition regulations and IDEA funds may be at risk. However, we are doing well in the area of transition assessments.

She noted that schools are responsible to discuss graduation options in grade 9, provide materials and prior written notice.

- A compensatory safety net checklist is available
- Indicator 13 protocols will change
- PLEP statements are needed for transition (can put them in the academic section of IEP), at least one need should be listed and supported by a goal.

A new Work Based Learning Manual is available on the state ed. website. Liz is offering a Work Based Learning Community of Practice group that meets 5 times during the year (locally at ON BOCES) for schools that have WBL programs. This is a great opportunity to collaborate, share resources and info, etc. Details are on [www.e1b.org](http://www.e1b.org).

Liz also spoke about Transition Source, [www.TransitionSource.org](http://www.TransitionSource.org), as a great resource. It contains useful documents and is a way to share information, post questions to members of the group, etc. Create an account online, then email Liz (email address is above) to add you to the RCASA group.

### **3. Announcements/sharing of information**

- a. **Sarah Wolf, ACCES- VR** stated that the timeline for applications remains the same. There have been some staffing changes. An updated ACCES-VR school liaison list is attached to the email for these minutes.
- b. **Julia Duerr-RSE-TASC** spoke about a Youth Career Fair scheduled at ON BOCES on October 26, pre-registration is required. A copy of the flyer is attached to the email for these minutes. This workshop can be used as an assessment on the IEP if students complete a reflection of the event.

Parent Network is offering a Pathways to Graduation workshop on 10/25 at the North Tonawanda Public Library, 6-8 p.m. Another session on Guardianship, Wills and Trusts is scheduled for the same day at O/N BOCES, 6:30-8:30.

**4. Transition Conference**-we will meet at 12:00 on Friday October 20, ON BOCES, to begin planning. The conference date is Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>.

**5. Resource Directory**-The directory should be done soon! Ann Ditto and Ann Gillet plan to meet next month to continue proofing and formatting.

**Meeting dates for 2017-18 school year:**

**November 15**

ADA and Disclosure in the Workplace

**January 17**

Topic-TBA

**March 21**

Topic-TBA

**May 16**

Topic-TBA