

Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes-March 21, 2018

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Presentation:

WNY Collegiate Consortium of Disability Associates <https://www.wnyccda.org/>
Sumana Silverheels, Buffalo State College, silvers@buffalostate.edu
Kristin Harte, SUNY at Buffalo, kkohl2@buffalo.edu

Kristin and Sumana spoke at length about CCDA; each of the local colleges is represented on the Consortium. The website also contains info sheets about the disability services available at each college.

When applying to college, it is important that Students with a Disability:

Connect with ACCES- VR or NYS Commission for the Blind where appropriate
Students should have recent documentation of their disability and include info on limitations/impact in school setting (IEP, diagnostic reports, *psychological)
*Psychological eval should be from 10th grade or later

Tour the college, self-identify and meet with the disability office
do not need to self-identify as part of application process

Realize that accommodations and supports do not automatically transfer from high school to college

Learn to use assistive technology in school and understand why it is used

Find a college that “fits”, consider:

small vs. large class size, what assistive tech and accommodations are available (varies by school), know own level of independence (mentoring and tutoring are not an accommodations and are available at all schools)

Self-advocacy is key-need to seek and utilize accommodations

Students are provided a letter regarding approved accommodations and can decide who (professors) gets a copy of this info, specific disability info is not shared in this letter

Some accommodations may include:

Extended time on tests (not unlimited)-1 ½ time

Directions or tests read

Notes taken

Alternate format books

Foreign language substitution (program dependent)

Grammar/spelling waiver (program dependent).

Other considerations:

Tonia mentioned that there are a lot of free apps available that students can download and use (speech, volume and tone)

ACCES- VR may be able to assist with a technology eval and provide technology, students should be familiar with the technology prior to starting school

Finally, Suman reported that Buff State is hosting a **summer transition program:**

Access BSC - Bridge to Success in College, please call 716-878-4500 or visit the website at <http://sas.buffalostate.edu/access-bsc-bridge-success-college> for details.

Application forms are available on the website in three formats - Word, PDF and Online version. The deadline for application is April 16th, 2018. A deposit is requested however the check will be returned when the student attends the program.

Information will also be available on the website regarding **College Night-October 2018** at Daemen College (previously held at UB).

**Natalie Beilein, Indigo Project
716-4502**

Indigo is a tool that can be used to assess emotional intelligence and increases awareness of an individual's own strengths. When staff use the assessment, it helps them better understand their own strengths, ways to work together, improve communication, etc. This can be part of Professional Development planning as well.

Indigo can be implemented as early as Middle School. When students understand their own strengths and weaknesses, this increased self-awareness helps them make informed choices and become their best self. This tool measures intrinsic motivators, behaviors and skills. This information can be used when developing school and club activities to increase student engagement.

For example, one measure is **DISC:**

D=Dominance

I=Influences

S=Steadiness

C=Compliance

Social Emotional Data is also provided to school (student perception of external and internal stressors).

Indigo can be used successfully in transition planning, developing a career plan, suggesting college majors, etc

Several local school districts are now using or plan to utilize Indigo with staff and students. (Lockport, Niagara Falls, Lew-Port)

3. Announcements/sharing of information

- a. **Tonia Weichmann, Transition Coordinator, Parent Network of WNY** <https://parentnetworkwny.org/>, reported that OPWDD recently sent a letter to parents and providers regarding changes from Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) to Care Coordination. Services will not be affected by this change. Effective July 1, Coordinators will now develop a Life Plan instead of an Individual Service Plan (ISP) and this will also include physical and mental health needs.

Tonia also reported that Parent Network has an eligibility navigator who can assist individuals from Erie and Niagara County when seeking an eligibility determination from OPWDD.

On April 23, there will be a presentation /overview of OPWDD at Charles Upson in Lockport.

ONE SEPTA (Orleans Niagara Erie Special Ed. PTA) will host a presentation titled: "Assistive Technology for Your Student" at ON BOCES, 6:30-8:30. Register at orleansniagaraeriesepta@gmail.com. Website is: <http://www.onesepta.org/>

- b. **Julia Duerr, Community Employment Specialist, Erie 1 BOCES** shared information regarding a transition event to be held at Roswell: "Looking for Success in Employment", April 27, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.. Details and registration information on the Parent Network website: <https://parentnetworkwny.org/wp-content/uploads/DDAWNY-conference-4-27-18-Flyer.pdf>
- c. **Elizabeth Loughran-Amorese, Erie I RSE TASC** reported that there is a new protocol for Indicator 13 and training has been updated.
- d. **Marilyn Patterson, WorkSourceOne** reminded us that applications are available on the website for the summer youth program. The deadline is May 10th. <http://worksource1.com/> . Students will need working papers when applying to this program.

4. Transition Conference- The conference date is Monday May 14th. Copies of conference flyers have been sent to High School staff in the ON BOCES region.

Meeting dates for 2017-18 school year:

May 16
OPWDD updates

Natalie Beilein-Indigo, part 2