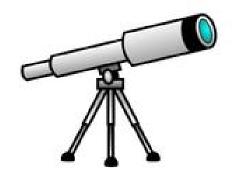
# Seamless Transitioning for Students with Epilepsy who have 504 Plans or IEPs: What Do Families Need to Know?

June 15, 2018 by Linda Rammler, M.Ed., Ph.D.

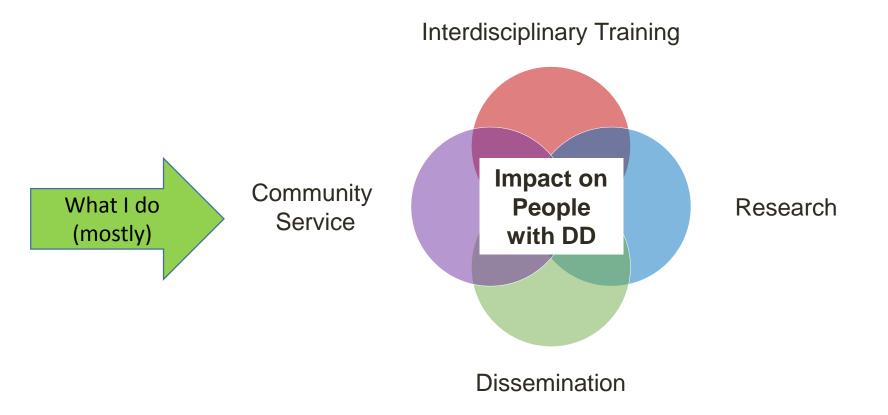








# The Core Functions That Are the Building Blocks of the UConn Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities





# This webinar is the first in a three part series:

Webinar 2:

Developing Selfdetermination in Youth with Epilepsy Webinar 3:

Issues in Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care for Youth with Epilepsy

Friday, June 22, 1-4 p.m. Friday, June 29, 1-4 p.m.



### After each live webinar,

PowerPoints will be available in \*.PDF format on our website along with a taping of the webinar itself.

www.uconnucedd.org



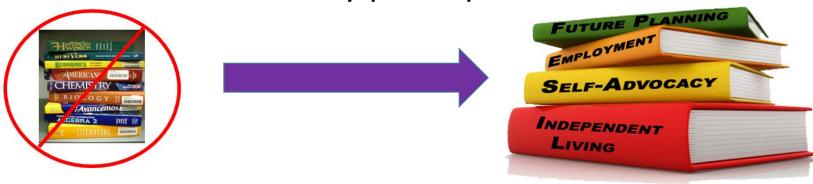
### Today' webinar will address

- Big adjustment (whether on to post-secondary schooling or the world of work) when grade school days are over
- Extra steps often needed for students with 504
   Plans or Individualized Education Programs,
- Overview of what parents of adolescents and young adults with epilepsy can do to facilitate a seamless transition from school to adulthood.



## What does "transition" as you hear it from schools really mean?

Secondary transition = Thoughtfully planned movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.





### High School completion means:

• If NO IEP or 504 plan:

Academic requirements met = diploma awarded

If 504 plan only:

This can follow the person to post-secondary education or training programs, BRS, or even work as "reasonable accommodations"

Academic requirements met = diploma awarded



# If IEP w/academic requirements (i.e., minimum credits earned) met

- AND no other IEP Goals/objectives = diploma awarded
- BUT transition goals/objectives <u>not</u> met = diploma not awarded until non-academic IEP G's/O's met OR "ages out"

"Ages out" = end of SY in which student turns 21 years of age



# IF IEP and has not met academic requirements by age 18-19ish:

- Still focus on transition goals/objectives to maximize independent living/employment opportunities UNTIL:
  - o these G's/O's met OR
  - "ages out" with "turnkey" to adult services/supports
- Some additional credits but seek alternatives (e.g., credit recovery, adult ed) if HS diploma important



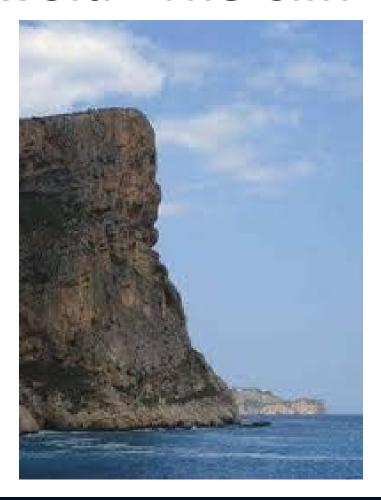
## If my child is not in his/her teens yet, does transition planning matter?

- Chores
- Playmates and playdates
- Community exposure and inclusion
- HIGH EXPECTATIONS
- Encourage dreams
- Identify and stay on top of changes in interests, preferences, likes, dislikes, talents, unique skills
- Savings account, hope chest, whatever you're doing for the siblings
- Connect to YOUR community
- Ask other kids your child's chronological age





### **Avoid "The Cliff"**



#### **Today's Objectives**

At the end of this webinar, you will be able to:

- 1. State the unique needs that students with epilepsy (with or without co-occurring diagnoses) have that need to be taken into account before school years end
- 2. Identify personal strengths to develop to facilitate a quality adult life
- 3. Develop personal and community connections for support
- 4. Access assistive technologies to facilitate independence
- 5. State the legal opportunities under Section 504 of the Rehab Act of 1972, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, and the Workforce Incentives and Opportunities Act of 2014
- 6. Identify additional resources to assist in the transition journey



### **Objective 1: Unique Needs**

- May still need to learn skills "differently acquired" or unique (Nordli, 2004), e.g.:
  - Age-appropriate social-emotional skills
  - Self-management (e.g., avoid triggers, dangerous medication interactions)
  - Time management (e.g., to accommodate sleepiness, stress)
  - Self-esteem/self-confidence
  - Age-appropriate independence



### Unique needs, cont.

- Medical and medication management (Dr. Schramm)
- Possible cognitive impact, e.g.,
  - Overall learning
  - Memory (short- or long-term)
- Possible co-occurring conditions (e.g., ID, ASD, physical challenges)

May have 504 Plan or IEP (Individualized Education Program) at school

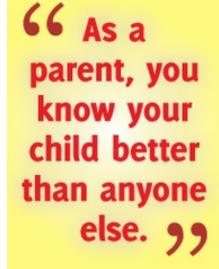


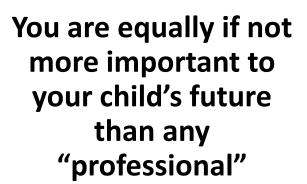
### Unique Needs, cont.

Life Liberty Happiness Know your rights

+ ADA 504 IDEA







SELFDETERMINATION
AND SELFADVOCACY





**ASK QUESTIONS** 



## Unique need = particular importance of self-advocacy and self-determination?

#### **Self-Advocacy**

"Self advocacy means speaking or acting for yourself. It means deciding what is best for you and taking charge of getting what you want. It means standing up for your rights as a person..." (CT DDS)

#### **Self-Determination**

"...refer(s) to a *characteristic of* a *person* that leads them to *make choices* and *decisions* based on their own *preferences* and *interests*, to monitor and regulate their own actions and to be *goal-oriented* and *self-directing*." (Nat'l Gateway to Self-Determination)



## But having unique needs should not affect *Quality of Life*.

With good planning and needed supports in place, people with ANY kind of disability or disabling condition can still lead an enviable life!



### **Objective #2: Personal Strengths**

Start with the end in mind:

What vision of a POSITIVE future do you have for your son/daughter?

What do you want to avoid in his/her future?



# Achieving Valued Life Outcomes are possible for EVERYONE

Valued life outcomes are the same types of outcomes we would want for any of our loved ones who do not have a disability.

#### A Place of One's Own to Call Home



Family





Friends



#### **More Valued Life Outcomes**















How much more feasible are these if you are employed and earning a living rather than living in poverty?





### Raising Expectations

- You raise expectations by having high expectations
- Raising expectations does not mean having unrealistic expectations



"If you reach for the stars, you can settle for the moon. If you only reach for the moon, you may never get off the ground." (RWC, 1995)



## STEP 1: Moving away from "what's wrong"

- Prejudices
- Over-protectiveness
- Thinking in terms of "mental age"
- Thinking in terms of deficits, weaknesses, and what doesn't work
- Hoping for a "cure"
- "It's not realistic"
- Waiting for someone else to "do it"

To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson:

Nothing can stop a family and individual with the right mental attitude from achieving their goal; nothing on earth can help those with the wrong mental attitude.



## Step 2: Wipe YOUR board clean of deficit thinking.

#### **Examples:**

- Will never \_\_\_\_\_\_
- Can't \_\_\_\_\_
- Is \_\_\_\_\_\_ (insert negative adjective)
- Diagnoses
- You must be/have done \_\_\_\_\_ to deserve \_\_\_\_\_
- Surely a cure is just around the corner
- Other unhelpful advice

- Accept the reality of discriminations based on race, ethnicity, gender, social class, and other –isms
- Take a sheet of paper and write down everything negative you can say about the young person of concern to you.



#### WRITE DOWN ALL THE NEGATIVITY



 Now take that sheet of paper, crumple it up and throw it away.

NOW GET RID OF IT!



### STEP 3: Strengths-Based Person-Centered Planning is Essential

### **Examples of strength-based** person-centered thinking

- Inclusion; celebrate differences
- Support not control
- <u>Do with</u> because community is important
- Balance of power belongs with the person
- It's okay to learn from mistakes

### Examples of the deficit model of "traditional" interactions

- Exclusion; ignore or hide differences or "fix"
- Control and manage
- <u>Do for</u> if they can't do themselves
- Balance of power belongs with caretakers/caregivers
- "They" must be protected



### Non-examples of strength-based person centered descriptions:

- Perseverates/Fixates on
- Displays attention-seeking behavior.
- Frequently off task or avoidant.
- Is non-compliant.
- Perseverates.
- No self-control
- Is dependent on others. Can't
- Tantrums.
- Short attention span.
- Splinter skills.
- Isn't smart
- Has lots of problems including but not limited to

#### **Examples of strength-based descriptions:**

- Perseveres, Really seems to like/be interested in .
- Wants to have relationships with
- Takes breaks to "regroup" or expresses disinterest independently.
- Has survived
- Self-advocates
- Does best when supported for \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- Knows what s/he likes.
- Able to change his/her mind.
- Talents. Really good at \_\_\_\_\_.
- Is smart in ways others don't always recognize like \_\_\_\_\_.



# After this webinar, work with your son/daughter to write down:

What people admire about me/my strengths

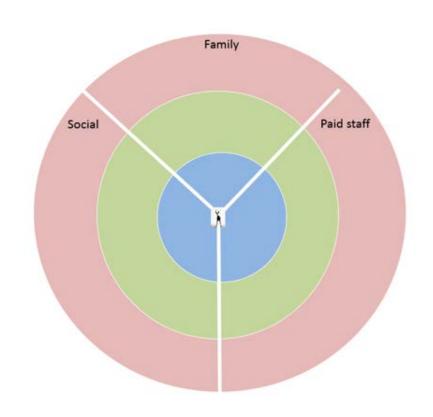
What's important to me (my preferences, interests, passions)



# Objective #3: Personal and Community Connections

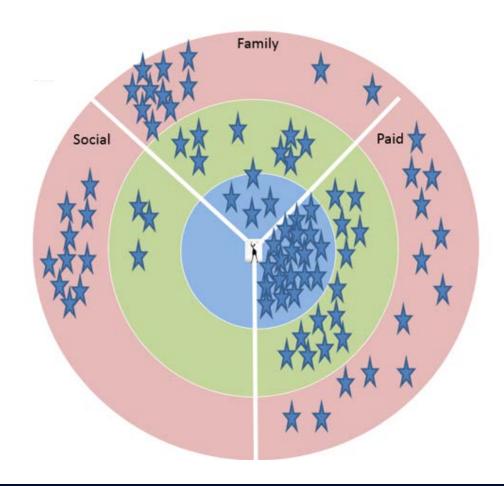
Adult services are NOT mandated!

Who is in you child's and your Circles of support?





### What we often see:





# How to build personal and community connections:

http://www.inclusion.com/downloads/actions thatbuildcommunity.pdf

	Build Community- ruld trust • get involved	
SOURCE: http://inclusion.com/down	loads/actionsthatbuildcommunity.pdf	
	O'Brien	
(Adapted from www.bettertogether.org which	identifies 150 social capital building actions)	
Community grows stronger through hundreds o As you scan the list put a mark next to any of th done either in the past morth or so, or for more	ese actions that you or a family member has	
Invite neighbors over for a meal or barbeque	Start or join a carpool	
Attend a political meeting	Plan a 'Waking Tour' of a local historic area	
Support local merchants	Tutor or read to children or have children rea	
Volunteer your special skills to a community	to you	
organization	Run for public office	
Donate blood (with a friend)	Host a party	
Work in a community garden	Offer to serve on a committee outside of wor	
Mentor a person of a different ethnic group	Form a walking group (or a swimming group)	
Surprise a new or favorite neighbor by taking shem food	with at least one other person & encourage each other	
Avoid destructive gossip or help someone	Play a sport	
else avoid it	Go to church and connect with people and	
Help another person outside your home for something	activities  Ask an elder or a young person to teach you	
Attendiocal school or children's athletics.	something	
plays, & rectals	Host a potiuck supper	
Get involved with scouts	Take dance lessons with a friend	
Sing in a choir	Become a trustee	
Attend a party in someone else's home	Join a campaign & take action that brings yo	
Get to know the clerks and salespeople at	into contact with others (not just a donation	
your local stores	<ul> <li>Oather a group to clean up a local park, cemetery or waterway</li> </ul>	
Audition for community theatre or support a production backstage or volunteer to usher	Bake something for neighbors or work	
Attend a lecture or concert	colleagues	
Give to your local food or clothing bank	Plant trees	
Play cards or games with friends or neighbors	Volunteer at the library or primary school	
Walk or bike to support a cause and meet	Call an old friend	
others	Sign up for a class & meet your classmates	
Participate in a political campaign	Accept or extend an invitation	
Attend a local festival or parade	Log of andgo to the park	
Find a way to show personal appreciation to		

someone who builds your local community  Coach or help out with local (youth) sport	Say helioto strangers
Offer to help a neighbor with garden work or	Find outmore by talking with a neighbor you don't know very well yet
shapping or a ride  Start or participate in a discussion group or book or film club  Cut back on TV & intered with people instead Join in to help camy something heavy  Make gifts of time  Greet people  If you think someone needs help, ask to find out & do what you can For teven if you didn't drop it.  Attend gallery openings & art exhibits.  Organize a neighborhood yard sale. Read or issent to the local news faithfully. Attend a public meeting or hearing & speak up.  When inspired write a personal note or send a card to friends.	don't know very well yet Host a movie night Pelp out with or create a newsletter Collect oral histories to discover the interesting things people have done Offers own and in neighbor's home while they are away. Help out with recycling Ask to see a friend's photos Invite a local politician or official to speak to a group you belong to Start taking to people you see regularly Listento the children you know and find out what matters to them Plan a reunion of family, friends, or people with whom you had a special connection Hire local young people for odd jobs Write a letter to the editor In a group that is likely to lead to making new friends of different at healty, or religion, or income, or life experience
What can we learn about community b	uilding from our own patterns of action?
John O'Brien NUTLE	SIGN COM WEISSON 2.0



# Personal and community connections, cont. <a href="http://learningcommunity.us/documents/connections.pdf">http://learningcommunity.us/documents/connections.pdf</a> pp. 10-11

#### A Guide to Developing Community Connections



#### An Associational Map

Prepared by John McKnight Northwestern University Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research

Associational life is rich in all of our communities. Learning about where the community networks are to useful information to have on hand. This is a guide to help you learn about the possible associations in your community. Use this let to think about the various organizations people being to. You can identify groups in your area in a number of ways - taking to others, looking in the phone book, reading area and neighborhood newspapers, surveying churches and exhing groups, checking with the Chamber of Commerce, etc. Make your own listing and use it as a resource as you think about connecting specific people.

Associations (examples)	Your Area
Artistic Organizations choral, theatrical, writing	
Business Organizations Chamber of Commerce, business associations	
Charitable Groups & Drives Red Cross, Cancer Society, United Way	
Church Groups service, prayer, men's, women's, youth, seniors	
Civic Events July 4th, art fair, festivals, Halloween	
Collectors Groups stamp collectors, flower dryers, antiques	
Community Support Groups Friends of the Library, nursing home, hospital	
Elderly Groups Senior Citizens	
Ethnic Associations Sons of Norway, Black Heritage Club, Hibernians	
Health & Fitness Groups bicycling, jogging, exercise	
Interest Clubs poodle owners, antique car owners	

#### A Guide to Developing Community Connections

Associations (examples)	Your Area
Local Government	
town, fire department, emergency units	
Local Media	
radio, newspaper, local access cable TV	
Men's Groups	
cultural, political, social, educational, vocational	
Mutual Support (Self Help) Group	
Alcoholics Anonymous, LaLeche League	
Neighborhood & Block Groups	
crime watch, beautification, Christmas decorations	
Outdoor Groups	
garden clubs, conservation clubs	
Political Organizations	
Democrats, Republicans, caucuses	
School Groups	
printing club, PTA, child care	
Service Clubs	
Zonta, Kiwanis, Rotary, AAUW	
Social Cause Groups	
peace, rights, advocacy, service	
Sports Leagues	
bowling, swimming, baseball, fishing, volleyball	
Study Groups	
literary clubs, bible study groups	
Veterans Groups	
American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War	
Women's Groups	
cultural, political, social, educational, vocational	
Youth Groups	
4H, Future Farmers, Scouts, YMCA	



# Objective #4: Assistive Technology



Including wearable or mattress seizure detection devices and alarms



# If portable electronics typically trigger seizures, consider:

- Flicker-free monitors
- Monitor Glare Guards
- Set up browser features to disable animation and audio in web sites
- Key grids for "touch screen" options



# If electronics trigger still seizures, what low-tech can be used?

- Bracelets/necklace
- To-do lists
- Pocket calendar
- Emergency communication/contact information
- Wrist watch alarms
- PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System)
- Automatic dialing, etc.



#### AT in transition:

- Assessed for appropriate independence-facilitating low- and high-tech assistive technology when in school
- Learn how to use appropriate AT when in school
- Access AT across settings so usable as an adult



#### For more information on AT:

https://oakhillct.org/NEAT-Center



# Objective #5: Legal Opportunities



https://www.disrightsct.org/



#### How do the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act differ?

AD	<b>A9</b>	
AMERICANS Disabilitie		

ERICANS WITH LUB	504 1973	IDEA 1975 last amended 2004
Purpose	Prevent discrimination	Direct assessment, planning, educational provisions/services
Funding	None	Provides state funding
Age served	Lifetime	Birth to acceptance of high school diploma or age 21
Population	All federally funded programs	Schools
Procedural regulation	Not strictly regulated	Specific due process requirements



#### ADA v. 504 v. IDEA, cont.

- ADA "...guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications." (No change for public entities)
- Section 504 "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance . . . ."

http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/section-504-2/





#### ADA v. 504 v. IDEA, cont.

 "IDEA requires that the disability adversely affect a child's educational performance...(and) that the purpose of education is to enable the child to develop skills toward independence and meaningful community involvement as an adult."

https://ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/index.html OR http://idea.ed.gov/explore/home



## Is my child eligible for transition services or protections under any of these laws?

- SHORT ANSWER: It depends.
- Must meet eligibility criteria. But according to whom?
- Due process only under IDEA
- Administrative relief if rights violated under any act
- Egregious violations may result in compensatory damages by violators but only at plaintiff's expense of taking case to court

ONLY THE IDEA PROVIDES FOR SECONDARY TRANSITION SERVICES.



#### **New Laws**



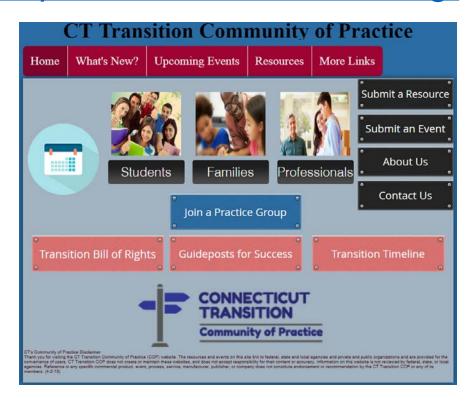
A.B.L.E.

Achieving a Better Life
Experience Account
<a href="http://ablenrc.org/">http://ablenrc.org/</a>



# Objective 6: Additional Resources

https://www.cttransition.org/





# Ability Beyond Transition Resource Center

TRANSITION RESOURCES

MEMBER LOGIN

http://abilitybeyond.org/res ource-center/transitionresources/



#### Welcome. Transition is a Journey.

It is never too early to start planning for your child's future even if just getting through one day at a time can seem overwhelming. Learn what you, as a parent, can do to maximize your child's independence now and plan for a future that it secure and full of opportunity.

The Transition Resource Center provides eight informative videos covering all key areas of transition including:

- IEP's & School Based Supports
- Employment First
- Housing & Daily Life
   College & Post-Secondary Education
- Social Connections & Relationships
- Healthy Living
- Legal Matters & Advocacy
- Finances & Eligibility

In addition, we offer worksheets tailored to the topic of each Module to guide the planning process.

Start by signing up to join the Transition Resource Center. Membership and all resources are free to the public.



Developed in Partnership with:



#### What are things to think about today?

- Transitions in the future PLAN PLAN PLAN PLAN PLAN (no shoulda/woulda/coulda allowed!)
- Refocus your own goals









- Think POSITIVE FUTURES and dare to dream
- Recognize that getting the support one needs to live a meaningful life is different from being "in a program"
- Maximizing EMPOWERMENT (yours and your child's)
- Maximize "natural supports"





#### **Today's Objectives**

#### Are you now able to:

- 1. State the unique needs that students with epilepsy (with or without co-occurring diagnoses) have that need to be taken into account before school years end?
- 2. Identify personal strengths to develop to facilitate a quality adult life?
- 3. Develop personal and community connections for support?
- 4. Access assistive technologies to facilitate independence?
- 5. State the legal opportunities under Section 504 of the Rehab Act of 1972, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, and the Workforce Incentives and Opportunities Act of 2014?
- 6. Identify additional resources to assist in the transition journey?



### **Comments or questions?**

#### How to contact me:

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#### THANK YOU! PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR EVALUATIONS at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EFCTWebinar1Eval

