

## **TPI Transition Initiative: Supporting Individuals with Disabilities as they Plan for their Future**

Nationally, only 17% of people with developmental disabilities are employed (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016). In California, the number of people with developmental disabilities who are employed is 4.8% lower than the national average at 12% (California Department of Developmental Services, 2016).

### **TPI's Transition Initiative**

TPI is working to improve employment and economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities (IWD) through its Transition Initiative. Led by international transition experts, Richard Rosenberg, Ph.D. and Linda O'Neal, M.A., the Transition Initiative aims to support employment, education, and life planning that centers the individual's strengths, personality, and passions. Through the Transition Initiative, TPI is striving to support individuals in obtaining meaningful employment by championing Person Driven Planning (PDP), leading transition work teams, and supporting the Transition CA website.

### **Person Driven Planning**

PDP is a strategic planning process focused on the future of an individual with a disability. This process brings a group of interested people together to assist in the development of a comprehensive action plan, which will guide the person as they pursue specific interests, goals and dreams. In PDP, the focus is on an individual and that person's vision of what they would like to do in the future.

To promote PDP, the TPI Transition Initiative Team developed research based training materials to guide families, educators, and service providers through the PDP process. In order to provide support beyond the training materials, the team presented 11 PDP virtual workshops to over 400 people. Their support extended beyond workshops by providing 26 PDP meetings that assisted the individual and their support team through all stages of the PDP process. As a result of PDP, relevant stakeholders work together to identify a personal action plan that identifies goals and activities that support the individual's career goals, independent living, and access to resources and services.

### **Orange County Local Partnership Agreement**

TPI is also a founding member and leader in the Orange County Local Partnership Agreement (OCLPA). The OCLPA consists of 160 members from 60+ partner agencies representing *local* education agencies, disability resource agencies, community colleges, workforce development programs, self-advocates, and families. The purpose of the OCLPA is to enhance partnerships that promote preparation for and achievement of competitive integrated employment (CIE) for IWD.

Within the OCLPA are seven work teams, who collaboratively work toward improving opportunities for people with disabilities in the areas of employment, post-secondary inclusion, benefits planning and management. Under the leadership of the TPI Transition Team, the

Universal Referral Process (URP) Work Team has been established to streamline the coordination of service providers and provide equitable support during the transition process. The URP has combined the efforts of 11 agencies in Orange County and conducted six trainings to over 176 people to ensure that individuals with significant disabilities are connected with the resources they need to achieve their goals.

### **Transition CA Website**

TPI's efforts to improve employment and transition outcomes include the launch of the TransitionCA.org website. The mission of the Transition CA website is to promote and support successful transition to employment, independent living and quality life for IWD, including those with significant disabilities. The website supports transition by providing transition related information and documents for a variety of stakeholders, including individuals, families, educators, service providers, agencies, advocacy groups, business partners, and medical professionals.

TPI's Undergraduate Tech Assistants designed the website and uploaded over 4,000 (?) documents. New documents are uploaded each month and the Transition Training Calendar is updated regularly with new events. Include Google Analytics.

### **Looking Forward**

Through the Transition Initiative, TPI will continue to support person driven planning, the OCLPA, and the Transition CA website to forward inclusive employment that centers the passions and hopes of individuals, while providing guidance and information to families, educators, and service providers who support the individual in their journey.

### **Impact Statement**

Adam Gottdank, Ph.D., Director Disability Support Services North Orange Continuing Education:

OCLPA brought together all the key stakeholders from across Orange County to address the needs of individuals transitioning from K12 to college and employment, TPI and OCLPA have provided a platform for NOCE to share our disability support services and programs to the entire community through monthly meetings and webinars.

### **Transition Numbers:**

Total Training Participants 6,430  
47 Local Trainings  
14 State Trainings  
3 National Trainings

### **Call Out Box:**

#### **Bridge to the Future IV**

This past spring, TPI's Transition Initiative partnered with the California Transition Alliance and other state agencies to plan and host the Bridge to the Future V Institute. Over three days, 89 speakers conducted 64 Zoom Webinars that covered a wide-range

of transition-related topics. From options for post-secondary education to ideas for micro-enterprises, the Bridge to the Future IV Institute provided a wealth of information to over 1,800 attendees. The attendees included self-advocates, families, caregivers, educators, service providers, agency representatives, business leaders, and community stakeholders.

Cut bits:

Person Driven Planning can also be used as an ongoing problem-solving process to help people with disabilities plan for their future. Person Driven Planning depends on the commitment of a team of individuals who care about the student. These individuals take action to make sure that the strategies discussed in planning meetings are implemented.

The "person-driven" team meets to identify opportunities for the individual to develop personal relationships, participate in their community, increase control over their own lives, and develop the skills and abilities needed to achieve these goals.

along with Regional Center of Orange County, California Department of Rehabilitation, and North Orange County Continuing Education.

The OCLPA was established in July 2017 and has grown to over 160 members from 60+ agencies.

The OCLPA identifies issues affecting people with disabilities in Orange County and then the Work Teams collaboratively develop strategies and supports to address those issues.

through combining PDP with competitive integrated employment opportunities.

Ask the Experts bi-monthly  
Conservatorship webinar & benefits planning webinar

It is hoped that these resources will assist individuals with a wide range of disabilities, their families and those who support them, as they prepare to become self-sufficient adults living a quality life.

a range of jobs that allow for advancement as the individual gains experience and education.

TPI's partner agencies provide information sheets, research articles, and videos to help stakeholders with post-secondary education, employment, independent living, and other transition related topics.

Say something to connect to the problem. Not just about finding employment, but supporting meaningful employment that will lead to a fulfilling life that honors the individuals strengths and dreams