

Catherine A. Raggio, Secretary  
George P. Failla, Jr., Deputy Secretary

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor



January 14, 2010

Thomas V. Miller, Senate President  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Michael E. Busch, Speaker of House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to provide copies of the Annual Reports for the Attendant Care Program, Personal Assistance Services Advisory Committee, and the Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities. In accordance with §2-1246 of the State Government Article, five copies of each report have been provided to the Library of the Department of Legislative Services.

If you have any questions about these reports, please contact Mr. George P. Failla, Jr., Deputy Secretary. I look forward to our continued collaboration for the benefit of Maryland residents with disabilities and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine A. Raggio".

Catherine A. Raggio  
Secretary

C: Department of Legislative Services  
George P. Failla, Jr.

# **Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities**

## **Annual Report 2009**

**Catherine A. Raggio, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Disabilities, Chair  
Robert A. Burns, Assistant State Superintendent  
Maryland State Department of Education/ Division of Rehabilitation  
Services, Co-Chair**

## **Background**

On August 7, 2007, The Honorable Governor Martin O'Malley signed Executive Order 01.01.2007.13 that reconstituted the Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities (IATC). The original Council was constituted on December 7, 2000 to improve the school outcomes of youth with disabilities in Maryland by coordinating the energies and efforts of the state agencies that serve youth. The re-constituted Council will recommend policies and identify the funding requirements to ensure effective, efficient and comprehensive delivery of services to effectively meet the transition needs of Maryland Students with disabilities.

The Council met six times during the reporting period: November 17, 2008, January 12, 2009, March 9, 2009, May 4, 2009, July 13, 2009, and September 21, 2009.

## **IATC Strategic Planning**

The work on the IATC Strategic Plan began in the Spring of 2008. Throughout the past year, the Council dedicated time on the agenda to move the process forward. This process included input from various State and community stakeholders and reviews of existing transition plans including Ready by 21, Mental Hygiene Administration's (MHA) Transition Strategic Plan and the Higher Education State Plan/5 Year Strategic Plan. By the end of the reporting period the Council had established its three main goals, related action steps, and many of the outcome measures. The three main goals established are:

1. Every student with a disability will exit school prepared for employment.
2. Every student with a disability will exit secondary school aware of post-secondary education options.
3. Every student with a disability and their family will receive support and education to successfully assist their young adult through the transition process.

## **Transition Conference**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Transition Conference, titled "Navigating the Road from School to Adulthood for all Youth with Disabilities" was held December 3 – 4, 2008. The primary purpose of the conference was to expand the capacity of community partners in promoting the successful transition of youth with disabilities to post school outcomes of employment; post secondary education and training; community participation and healthy lifestyles. Highlights of the Conference included:

- A student panel.
- Approximately 600 participants attended over the two day event in addition to twenty vendors representing Special Olympics of Maryland; Brookes Publishing; Maryland Youth Leadership Forum, The League for People with Disabilities; Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)/Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS); Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR); Abilities Network; People Encouraging People [PEP Net – Northeast]; Maryland Works; and Envision Technology.
- A plenary session highlighting the Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative, the five-year (2007 – 2012) model demonstration project awarded to MSDE/DORS by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.
- Forty sessions offered over the two days providing broad based learning experiences across the wide breadth and diverse group of individuals, local education agencies, community providers, employers and organizations responsible for and interested in the successful transition of youth with disabilities to successful post school outcomes. A variety of topics

included: Assisting and Empowering Youth with Mental Health Disabilities in the Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood; Dropping Out and the Effects on Students with Disabilities; The Road to Self-Sufficiency—Entrepreneurship for Youth with Disabilities; Technology for Students with Cognitive/Learning Disabilities; Mentoring Plus Transition Equals Success for Blind Youth; and a three part series entitled The Way to Work—Essentials for Facilitating Work Experiences for Youth in Transition.

- Keynote address from George P. Failla, Jr. Esq., Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Disabilities.

Throughout the first half of 2009, the Council collaborated and supported DORS as it prepared for the 2009 annual conference. Staff capacity and fiscal concerns contributed to the decision to scale back the interagency conference for the coming year. Alternatively, DORS scheduled an Institute primarily utilizing DORS staff to foster cross-regional collaboration and information sharing. Two primary tracks will be developed that focus on the core missions of employment and post-secondary education.

### **Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative**

In its role as the Advisory Committee for the Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative<sup>i</sup> (MSTC), the Council received updates on this initiative which awarded funding to Anne Arundel, Carroll and Calvert Counties and Baltimore City. The grants are to improve post school outcomes for students with disabilities through a sequential delivery of specific transition service components beginning in early high school. Throughout the past year the IATC was updated on the development of the MSTC initiatives including:

- Site development
- Students served and services provided
- Dissemination through the MSTC website ([www.seamlesstransition.org](http://www.seamlesstransition.org)) and online information sessions
- Training and technical assistance for the Summer Youth Empowerment program sponsored by DORS
- Evaluation through the MSTC database

### **Updating the Transitioning Youth Website**

Secretary Raggio gave a presentation to the IATC in January 2009 on the need to develop a new and improved transitioning youth website. The information and links on the earlier version of [www.mdtransition.org](http://www.mdtransition.org) were somewhat outdated. Accordingly, the site was taken offline in the fall of 2008. The presentation included an interactive viewing of [ilivehere.info](http://ilivehere.info) developed by Youthline America. Youthline's website includes a national online database that lists resources within local communities. From the discussion, five agencies, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and MHA, Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), MSDE Division of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (DSE/EIS), and DORS agreed to partner in developing the new website and database.

### **Additional Highlights**

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – DORS will receive \$6 million over a two year period. The funding is being used to reduce DORS' waiting list; transition youth/summer employment opportunities and other significantly underserved populations. Public meetings were held with the State Rehabilitation Council to encourage broader public input into the

utilization of these funds. The MSDE Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services also received a significant amount of funding. A significant amount of funding will pass through MSDE to the 24 local jurisdictions.

- MSTC presented to two national conferences. The first was to the annual Division on Career Development Training, a division of the National Council for Exceptional Children. The 2009 theme was “From Cobblestones to Cornerstones, Revitalizing Transition Outcomes in 2009.” The second presentation was to the National Rehabilitation Association’s 2009 conference “Embracing Change: New Days, New Ways.”
- MSDE participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center State Planning Institute co-hosted with IDEA Partnership, the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities, and the National Post-School Outcomes Center.

### **Proposed Activities for 2010**

- Finalize the IATC Strategic Plan
- Develop and launch Transitioning Youth Website
- Expand Job Fairs and other Employment Development Activities for Youth with Disabilities

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<sup>i</sup> The Maryland Seamless Transition Collaborative [MSTC] is a 2.9 million dollar, five-year special demonstration project awarded to the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services. The project is designed to improve post-school outcomes for students with disabilities through a sequential delivery of specific transition service components beginning in early high school. A feature of MSTC is a public/private partnership between Maryland’s Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and TransCen, Inc. Key partners in the Collaborative with DORS and TransCen are the Maryland Department of Disabilities, the Maryland State Department of Education, along with other state agencies, families, and community-based partners represented on the Governor’s Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities. The key to seamless transition is the braiding of resources needed by each student and available from partners resulting in uninterrupted, collaborative transition from public secondary education to employment and/or postsecondary education. Components of the MSTC Model include: individualized, student-driven transition planning and services; family support and participation; array of individualized work experiences during secondary education years; interagency braided resources based on the participating student’s Individualized Transition Plan; paid employment experience and linked to a community service provider or postsecondary education at the point of transition; state and local systems changes related to policies, procedures, and practice.

A key feature of MSTC is the replication of the seamless school-to-career model. Charles County Public Schools serves as the model site w/TransCen, Inc., and assists TransCen in the development and improvement of the model. Through a competitive application process [December 2007] and review [February 2008], four additional sites were selected to receive planning and implementation funds for the MSTC. Anne Arundel and Carroll County public school systems were selected and began April 1, 2008, Calvert County Public School system began October 1, 2008, and Baltimore City public school system will start October 1, 2009. A total of eight sites are scheduled to be selected, at strategic intervals, by the fourth year of the project.

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## **INTERAGENCY TRANSITION COUNCIL FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES**

### **Membership List 2008 – 2009**

Catherine A. Raggio, *Chair*  
Robert A. Burns, *Co-Chair*

*Appointed by Governor to 3-year terms:* Jean Considine; DaRue N. Doakes; Mary D. Funk; Ann Geddes; Mary E. Grigal; Joan M. Rumenap. *Terms expire 2010.*

*Student representative appointed by Governor:* Keslye Van Neal, 2008.

*Representing Maryland State Dept. of Education:* Robert A. Burns, Assistant State Superintendent for Rehabilitation Services; Tom Barkley, designee of Assistant State Superintendent for Special Education & Early Intervention Services; Diana M. Bailey, designee of Assistant State Superintendent for Career Technology & Adult Learning; Richard D. Scott, designee of Assistant State Superintendent for Student & School Services; Sharon E. Julius; Joyce Serio; one vacancy.

*Representing Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene:* Colleen Gauruder, designee of Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration; Lissa Abrams, designee of Director, Mental Hygiene Administration.

*Representing Dept. of Human Resources:* Carnitra White.

*Representing Dept. of Juvenile Services:* Elizabeth Cavey.

*Representing Dept. of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation:* Andrew Moser; Eric M. Seleznow.

*Representing Maryland Commission on Disabilities:* C. David Ward.

*Representing Maryland Higher Education Commission:* Glennis Daniels-Bacchus; Andrea E. Mansfield.

*Representing Maryland Technology Assistance Program:* Michael A. Bullis.

*Ex officio:* Catherine A. Raggio, Secretary of Disabilities; Nancy S. Grasmick, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Schools; Mary Beth Stapleton, designee of Executive Director, Governor's Office for Children.

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