

Summary of Effective Programs, Services, Collaborations and Committees Serving Youth and Young Adults in Transition in Trumbull County, Ohio



Compiled by: Lauren Thorp
(330) 675-2765 ext. 119

Can also be accessed at: www.trumbullmhrb.org

Burdman Group, Inc.

Agency Description

Burdman Group Inc. is a multi-service contract agency of the Mahoning County Mental Health Board and Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board. Agency staff participate in on-going countywide system meetings that address the needs of the community. Burdman Group Inc. presently provides services in three (3) core areas, Behavioral Health, Employment and Job Retention, and Domestic Violence. The Behavioral Health and Employment and Job Retention divisions provide services to persons with severe emotional, physical, developmental and other disabilities in Trumbull and Mahoning counties.

The agency plans, develops, implements, and coordinates its services to meet the needs of the community as identified in the Community Mental Health Boards' Community Plans by focusing on: a) mental health treatment, b) crisis response services, c) peer support, d) family and Community Psychiatric Support Treatment services, e) employment and job retention services, and f) protection and advocacy.

Program Description

Employment & Job Retention Services provides vocational rehabilitation services to both adults and youth in transition.

The goal of our youth services is to identify youth who are economically disadvantaged and/or have disabilities and assist them with the transition from school to work by way of identifying, providing and/or linking them with the necessary vocational, educational, and/or community service needs and provide specialized vocational rehabilitation services.

The following are the services provided through various partnerships:

Referral Outreach, Assessment, Vocational Guidance & Counseling, Paid Work Experiences, Job Placement, Leadership Development Opportunities and Adult Mentoring, Personal/Social Adjustment, Summer Employment Linked to Academic and Occupational Skills, Job Coaching, and Follow-up Services.

Operational Resources

Staff is qualified according to ODMH Certification Standards for agencies that provide vocational services. The employment & job retention services are supervised by an administrator with a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling who is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Licensed Professional Counselor. Vocational rehabilitation staff is largely degreed and has completed specialized training.

Financial Resources

Burdman Group receives its revenue from a variety of federal, state, local and private sources based upon its provision of service.

Contact Information

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Career Trax

Trumbull Career & Technical Center

Career Trax is an educational and employment program that is funded through a Grant by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The Program is overseen by the Trumbull County Department of Jobs and Family Services.

This program is designed to help young adults, ages 18 to 21, with education, training and employment. The services include a comprehensive plan to help with mentoring, tutoring, alternative education, work experience, support services and counseling. The program is geared towards young people who are at risk for dropping out of high school or who have already done so and need help obtaining their GED.

There is no fee for this service but those involved must be appropriate, be able to pass a TABE test and have barriers that prevent them from being able to manage these things on their own.

The goal is to help them get training that will provide them with marketable skills so they can have a better chance of gaining employment and possible career options.

The students will be encouraged to participate in group activities that consist of team building, trust, community service and leadership.

Participants will be given the opportunity to tour industry, college campuses and work sites. They will be given the chance to receive alternative education and skills training. All participants will develop a plan of action which includes educational and vocational goals. Students will be offered work experience in the community, based on their interests and needs.

Submitted by Bette Allen-Nisbett
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Coleman Professional Services Transitional Youth and Employment Services

Coleman Professional Services Transitional Youth housing program, funded by the Ohio Department of Development and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, offers housing and employment services to individuals aged 18 to 22. To qualify, the individual must be homeless (as defined by the Ohio Department of Development), have a mental health diagnosis, and be willing to participate in an employment related activity.

The grant provides a variety of permanent housing options and comprehensive supportive services, covering rent and utilities based on fair market guidelines for a period of 24 months. Each unit is inspected by the grant program coordinator to ensure that it is safe and that everything is in working order. Once the individual locates employment, the grant coordinator will help calculate a monthly contribution to a savings account (paid in lieu of rent).

Transitional Youth Employment Program focuses on young adults between the ages of 16-24 who have a mental health disorder. Referred persons will be assisted with Career exploration, BVR/Pathways referral for services funding, Work exposure/job shadow, Pre-employment activities, Assessment, Job Search, Job Placement, Job Coaching and Follow along.

For further housing information, please contact Joanna Brown at Coleman Professional Services, at 330-392-1123; for employment assistance contact Jodi Hively at 330-392-1136. Coleman is able to provide these services through a grant and partnerships with the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Valley Counseling Services and Burdman Group.

Ohio Rehabilitation Service Commission
Bureau Of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) is one of three divisions of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. BVR assists people with physical, mental and emotional disabilities through vocational rehabilitation and other services.

Following is a description of the most common services provided by BVR:

- Counseling and planning to jointly choose an employment goal based on the consumer's strengths and weaknesses.
- Personal and work adjustment assessment and training to help individuals reach their employment goals.
- Vocational training including trade schools, colleges and other appropriate services. Allowable costs may be based on determination of estimated financial contribution.
- Physical and mental restoration to correct or modify an impairment so the individual will be able to attain employment.
- Placement in an employment setting suitable to the individual's skills and capacities.

Any one may be referred to BVR or you can refer yourself and a determination of eligibility by the VR counselor will be based on the following:

- If you have a physical or mental impairment which constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment
- You can benefit from services in terms of an employment outcome and
- You require VR services to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.

Several specific considerations are considered when working with transition youth

- Will transportation be available? Will it be reliable? Can the student walk or ride a bike to work if a car or bus is unavailable? Are they willing (and able) to get a driver's permit?
- Do the parents or guardians want the student to work? Are they cooperative? Will the student's working interfere with benefits the family receives? A benefits analysis is available.
- Has the student received job skills training by the appropriate school staff? Are they prepared for the interview, job requirements, have they seen a list of job expectancies prior to their first contact with a potential employer? Do they have any actual work or volunteer experience? Will a job coach be needed?

For more information contact:

Ohio Rehabilitation Service Commission
Bureau Of Vocational Rehabilitation-Suite 202
4076 Youngstown Rd. S.E.
Warren, Oh 44484
330-373-1937

**TRUMBULL COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
TRANSITION SERVICES-C.I.T.E. PROGRAMS
SCHOOL-TO-WORK**

The **Community Integrated Training for Employment or C.I.T.E.** Programs are community-based vocational training programs for students 14-22 years old who may seek community employment upon graduation. The CITE Programs provide non-paid job skill training to students who are determined eligible for developmentally disabled (DD) services, reside in Trumbull County, and are in need of a supported work environment. The goals of the programs are to provide specific vocational experiences to develop work skills, attitudes and habits necessary for paid community employment and to allow for informed choice-making regarding future employment.

School-Based

Lincoln/Willard CITE: Collaboration with Warren City Schools, targeting students ages 14-16, who have had little/no previous work training. A Fairhaven teacher, based in Warren, works 1:1 or 1:2 with students as they perform in-school jobs. Goal is to develop basic work skills to prepare students for future vocational programs/employment. Teacher acts as a resource for Warren staff. Serves 12-14 students.

Harding CITE: Collaboration with Warren City Schools, targeting Harding High School students ages 16-22, who have had little/no previous work training. Fairhaven teacher, based at Harding, works 1:1 or with small groups of students as they perform in-school or community-based jobs. Goal is to develop basic work skills to prepare students for future vocational programs/employment. Teacher acts as a resource for Harding staff. Serves 18-24 students.

Fairhaven CITE: Students, who attend Fairhaven School, perform in-school jobs under the supervision of a CITE instructor or assistant to develop basic work skills. In-school jobs may include kitchen/cafeteria tasks, laundry tasks, maintenance tasks, stocking, copying, mailings or supply delivery. When students have demonstrated success at in-school jobs, they may participate in community-based work training. A student is assigned to a community-based training site for one semester. Students learn specific tasks under the supervision of a CITE instructor to improve their work skills, and to help them decide where they might want to work in the future.

Community-Based

Village Center CITE: Fairhaven teacher and assistant based at a classroom in Fairhaven's Village Center facility (former Carlisle building) targeting students who are DD eligible and 18-22 years old. It is a flexible four-day program that will give students an opportunity to further develop work skills with supports based on individual need. The teacher and assistant will provide instruction as students complete vocational tasks in and around the facility. The focus of the program will be on improving employability skills in a supportive environment to assist in decision-making regarding future vocational training programs and/or post-school employment. Serves 14-20 students.

OPT-4-CITE: Collaboration with Trumbull Career & Technical Center's Option 4 Program and Kent State University Trumbull Campus. Classroom is based at TCC, targeting students ages 16-22 who are DD eligible and enrolled in Option 4 program. Students attend 2 days per week. The day is spent in job training sites at KSU-TC performing vocational tasks in various areas under the supervision of a Fairhaven teacher. Goal of the program is to develop appropriate work skills/behaviors and to provide job exploration to prepare for further vocational programs/employment.

Shepherd of the Valley (SOV) CITE: Fairhaven program that houses a classroom at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Retirement Services-Niles Location, targeting students who are DD eligible, age 18-22, have had previous vocational training and exhibit a degree of independence/responsibility to be paired with a co-worker to perform job tasks in various departments. Fairhaven teacher based at SOV to oversee program, provide supports/supplemental training, schedule training placements, etc. Program operates 3 days per week. Days of participation can be flexible. Goal of the program is to develop/assess student's ability to work semi-independently in a natural setting with natural supports to prepare for employment. Student is able to explore jobs in dietary, housekeeping, laundry, and clerical. Ideally, this is the last step before community employment. Serves 8-10 students.

Contact: Kathy Sprague, Transition Coordinator, Fairhaven School, (330) 652-5811 or (330) 399-4668
Mrs. Julia Wike, Intake Coordinator, (330) 652-1116; Eligibility for MRDD Services.

TRUMBULL COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

Individuals transitioning to the community participate in planning for the transition and are prepared with positive experiences and skills to make a successful move. The Agency employs a part-time Independent Living Coordinator to work with all children in substitute care who are sixteen (16) or older. All avenues are explored at least six months prior to a child's emancipation and in most cases much sooner than six months. The Agency and the resident work together to develop a plan for living in the community. While a child cannot apply for social security, a medical card or food stamp assistance until they reach the age of eighteen (18) and emancipate, the child's worker or the Independent Living Coordinator will attend the appointment to secure benefits for the child, unless the child has asked to be allowed to do this on his/her own. The child's caseworker or Independent Living Coordinator also provides emancipating children with at least six months advance notice of the termination of any health, financial, or other benefits that may occur upon emancipation. Additionally, the Agency shares information regarding the rights and services to which the person may have access as a result of a disability; information about the welfare systems; information to maintain an ongoing relationship with the child's tribe and tribal community members, as applicable; and support through community volunteers or individuals who have made a successful transition, as appropriate.

During the child's stay in care, the child participates in independent living classes which are targeted towards the following topics: Planning for Independent Living, Job/Job Skills/Vocational Planning, Cover Letters, Resumes and Interviewing for a Job, Banking and Budgeting your Money, Buying a Vehicle and Understanding Car Insurance, Apartment Hunting and Learning about Community Resources, including affordable health care and counseling, Planned Parenthood, Legal Issues, Cooking and Nutrition, Health and Hygiene, AIDS, and Alcohol/Drug Abuse, and Self Esteem and Use of Leisure Time

All children complete the Daniel Memorial Assessment, which targets their strengths and weaknesses in the above listed areas. The Independent Living Coordinator works with each child to address areas of weakness identified. In addition, the child attends individual and group sessions to help with the preparation towards emancipation. Hands-on activities, role modeling and repetition are utilized as these techniques aid in the learning process. The Independent Living Coordinator shares information regarding court and welfare systems and child care services, as applicable.

The Agency ensures that basic resources are in place, including a safe, stable living arrangement; a source of income; affordable health care; access to at least one committed, caring adult; and access to positive peer support. The Agency completes and mails the Referral Form to the Trumbull County Department of Job and Family Services to ensure that a child leaving Agency custody continues to receive Medicaid coverage. Housing options are explored with each individual and an evaluation of the risks and benefits of various living situations is assessed. Options available could include living on campus if attending college; apartment living; living with family, friends, former foster family; and military service/housing. The Agency is able to pay for the first four (4) months of rent and security deposit and purchase all items to furnish an apartment. The Independent Living Coordinator works with various landlords and housing departments on college campuses to meet the individual needs of the child. In addition, the Agency assists the child in obtaining documents necessary to function independently.

A child has the option to continue working with the Agency after the age of eighteen (18). If the child chooses not to continue working with the Agency, then the child signs off on a form, indicating his/her decision. It is noted that few children choose to not work with the Agency. The Agency can continue working with the child until they reach the age of twenty-one (21). Thereafter, the Independent Living Coordinator often remains in contact with the adult, as needed.

The funding for the Independent Living Program consists of Federal Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program funding, TANF Independent Living funding, and Agency levy funding.

Contact: Deborah Perline (330) 372-2010

Trumbull County Family Wraparound

Wraparound is a strength-based planning process designed to meet the needs of families with complex issues. Trumbull County has promoted and practiced the Wraparound Process for many years, believing that family-centered, strength-based planning is best for children and achieves optimal results. The primary objective has always been to keep children in their own homes, providing whatever support families need to remain together.

Trumbull County has also found Wraparound to be an effective process for transition aged youth. In working with these youth, often the focus transitions from family-centered to youth-centered, in helping the youth prepare for independence. Many of the Wraparound facilitators in Trumbull County have received training in the TIPS model. They work to incorporate this model, with the life domains that are more relevant to this population, into their plans.

In 2007, the Trumbull County Family Wraparound Committee amended its eligibility guidelines to extend funding for individuals over 18, as long as they met one or more of the following criteria: MRDD, in CSB custody, or still in school with an active IEP. The Committee also included some more specific recommendations for working with transition aged youth. The following is taken directly from the eligibility guidelines:

1. For children over the age of 16: teams must include planning for their transition to adulthood including:
 - Permanent long term relationships with adults other than paid system staff
 - Planning for family or family substitute connections
 - Plan for maximizing career and educational opportunities
 - Assuring the maximum level of community involvement and participation in daily life

The Family Wraparound Oversight Committee is very fortunate to have multiple sources of funds available to pay for services and supports included in the Wraparound plans. The state provides FAST and ABC funds to the Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board. The Board has dedicated these funds to the Wraparound effort. These funds are combined with local funds from CSB, MRDD, DJFS, Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board and Juvenile Court to create a flexible fund. The Trumbull County Family Children's First Council Coordinator reviews the budgets and matches the services in the budget with the most appropriate funding source. Sometimes, more than one funding source is used with families, depending on the services needed.

Contact Information:

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Valley Counseling Services, Inc.
H.E.A.R.T.S PROGRAM
(Helping Early Adults Reach Their Success)

Program Description:

Valley Counseling Services, Inc., located in Trumbull County, Ohio, created the H.E.A.R.T.S Program in 2007 to provide specialized services to youth and young adults in transition. Participants in the Program chose the name *HEARTS* which stands for “Helping Early Adults Reach Their Success”. The Program is composed of case management (CPST) services and therapeutic (CPST) groups. Each person enrolled in the program can receive one or both of these services depending upon their needs and choices. The HEARTS supervisor and youth representatives serve on The Trumbull County Transition Committee.

Admission Criteria:

The target population for the H.E.A.R.T.S Program are those youth and young adults in transition who have emotional and/or behavioral treatment needs. The goal of HEARTS is to assist these young people in making a successful transition to adulthood. This is done by supporting youth so that they might achieve their goals in the *transition domains* of education, employment, living situation, and community life. Referral sources are young people, therapists, case managers, child welfare workers, schools, parent/guardians.

Interventions:

H.E.A.R.T.S Case Management

The case manager works with these young adults as they plan for their future. Case Management services can make referrals for educational and employment services; provide help with finding a place to live; and assist the youth in using those skills that are being taught in the H.E.A.R.T.S Group. A team is created with the young adult, family, friends and professionals. All Valley services available including Psychiatry, counseling, programs in schools, in homes and residential.

H.E.A.R.T.S Groups:

The H.E.A.R.T.S therapeutic groups focus on the needs of the young people in the area of Community Life. Each young person has his/her own goals that they hope to achieve through the group. The topics for this curriculum include: Daily Living; Leisure Activities; Community Participation; Self Determination; Communication; and Interpersonal Relationships. Groups are offered at Valley Counseling sites and local schools.

Discharge Criteria:

Youth who have met their goals in the transition domains will graduate from the program. The personal goals are: Employment-to obtain a job; Education- to obtain a diploma/post-secondary education/training; Living Situation-to have stability in their preferred living arrangement; Community Life Functioning-to learn daily living skills, to develop a social support network, to decrease risk behaviors, to develop leisure activities, and to engage with the community.

Operational Resources:

The resources include: 3 FTE; funds for food, curriculum, minor consumer needs; available space for program; 2 vehicles; designated therapist with flexible schedule.

Financial Resources:

Medicaid; limited indigent funds

Contact Information:

Jane Boutwell NCC, LPCC-S, LSW; Supervisor
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Ohio's Educational Regional Service System



...Serving Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana Counties

Regional State Support Team Mission...

To provide regional districts with Leadership, Technical Assistance, and High Quality Professional Development in the service areas of School Improvement, Literacy, Early Learning & School Readiness, and Special Education Compliance.

State Support Teams - Locations and Contacts

The 16 State Support Teams (see links below) are responsible for the regional delivery of school improvement, literacy, special education compliance, and early learning and school readiness services to districts using, a differentiated technical assistance structure of support based upon need. Sixteen ESCs were selected through an RFP process to act as Fiscal Agents.

The teams work through the Office for Exceptional Children, Office of Literacy, Office of Early Learning and School Readiness and the Office of Field Relations by providing technical assistance and professional development. The SSTs include staff and services formerly provided by the Special Education Regional Resource Centers (SERRCs) and the Regional School Improvement Teams (RSITs).

Address:

State Support Team Region 5
5555 Youngstown-Warren Road, Unit 696
Niles, Ohio 44446
Voice: (800) 776-8298 (800) 776-8298
FAX: (330) 544-1000

Field Relations Manager:

Beth Hargreaves (beth.hargreaves@ode.state.oh.us)
Ohio Department of Education
25 S. Front Street, MS 307
Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Staff Directory:

Phone Number (800) 776-8298 (800) 776-8298 Assigned Districts

SST Supervisor	Michele DiMuzio	x 105
SST Coordinator, Literacy	Ann Marie Hiznay	x 109
SST Consultant, School Improvement/Special Education	Karen Kanotz	x 118
SST Consultant, Early Childhood	Diana Lyon	x 116
SST Consultant, School Improvement/Special Education	Melanie Carfolo	x 125
SST Consultant, Literacy	Mary Anne Tyger	x 126
SST Consultant, Secondary Transition	Nick Bellino	x 104

Trumbull County Youth and Young Adults in Transition Committee

The Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board initiated conversations around the unique needs of Youth and Young Adults in Transition in the behavioral health system during the early 1990's. Those conversations have since evolved into the Trumbull County Youth and Young Adults in Transition Committee. The committee consists of members of all identified sectors working with this unique population, rather than just behavioral health providers. Represented systems include:

- Child Welfare
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Mental Health Treatment/Prevention
- Education
- Employment Services
- Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Substance Abuse Treatment/Prevention
- Parent Representative from the Family and Children First Council

The committee meets on a monthly basis to identify gaps in Trumbull County's social services system, make sure that youth ages 16-22 do not "fall through the cracks," and better manage the referral processes. So far the committee has been successful in identifying hundreds of youth in this age range, building community collaboration, and organizing training on working with Youth and Young Adults in Transition. Moving forward, the committee intends to arrange more training opportunities, increase youth involvement in the committee/community, and increase referrals to needed services. The committee recently restructured to involve youth from the mental health system in committee meetings. The youth's participation is utilized to gain awareness of system issues from their perspective, educate committee members of their unique challenges, and to brainstorm solutions. This committee maintains flexibility in its structure to be able to adapt to the changing needs of Youth and Young Adults in Transition.

Operational Resources: The committee has two co-chairs. The co-chairs are responsible for leading meetings, keeping minutes, and distributing information to committee members.

Financial Resources: This committee operates without any funding. All meeting attendance time and services are provided to the committee as in-kind contributions from the participating agencies.

Contact Information:

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Voices of Youth Closet

In 2010, The Trumbull County Youth and Young Adults in Transition Committee created a pantry to supply hygiene items and cleaning products to young adults ages 16-24. These young adults have a disability and are transitioning into independent living. The idea for the pantry, as well as the name, came directly from the youth involved with the committee and their peers. In our community we have organizations that provide assistance with food, clothing and furniture. However, basic consumable items such as toilet paper, hygiene products, garbage bags and cleaning supplies are not available elsewhere, or covered by the Ohio Direction card. The young adults stated that not having access to these items is a barrier to their independence and success. In response to this, a grassroots committee was formed out of the Youth and Young Adults in Transition Committee. The committee solicits donations from churches, agencies, and any other potential source. The local YWCA donated space to house the items and the local Youth Build built shelves to go into the space. Young Adults are able to go to the closet during the YWCAs normal hours of operation when accompanied by an approved adult. Approved adults are staff members of any of the agencies or systems that are members of the Youth and Young Adults in Transition committee.

Operational Resources: The closet is maintained by the youth of the HEARTS program at Valley Counseling Services and a staff member at the YWCA. Oversight is provided by the Youth and Young Adults in Transition committee.

Financial Resources: The Voices of Youth Closet received a one time start up grant for \$500 from National Youth Service America. The closet is sustained by donations of time and goods.

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