#### color_signs**Henry County Transition Partners**

#### Discovery of Key Barriers to Effective Transition

for Henry County Youth with Disabilities

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| **Education*** Lack of vocational courses
* Lack of vocational/career exploration
* Lack of 1-1 time with teachers
* Lack of coordinated services within school district
* Resource room mostly tutoring and test taking assistance
* Turnover of paraprofessionals
* Purpose: graduation, adult life prep, post-secondary education
* Need longitudinal, sequential curriculum
* Youth leave school without a plan
* Impact of No Child Left Behind and high stakes testing
* Need Activities of Daily Living skill training in the summer

Families and adult service providers not involved in IEP process* Stigma; lack of acceptance by peers

**Employment** * Fear loss of benefits with employment

Family history of not working* Lack of summer opportunities
* Youth do not understand work

**Information*** Lack of information about services
	+ i.e. What can they do?
* Incorrect information about services
* Need information about benefits
* Families/Youth don’t know where to look for help when they need it
 |  | **Preparation*** Lack of a team approach

Late diagnosis of disability* Lack connection with post-secondary disability services
* Lack of testing for use by post-secondary disability services

**Systemic*** Successful transition appears to be individual by individual; need a system for all students
* Complexity of the adult service system; teachers don’t understand it
* Complexity of the school systems; adult service providers don’t understand it
* Lack of easy access to services
* No follow-up to see how youth are doing

**Youth*** Lack of support for the “total youth”
* Youth in school unrealistic about “adult life”
* No one in the school/community to “talk to”
* Lack connections to the community
* Youth not in school seem to be on their own; need structure, accommodations
* Students need self-confidence
* Youth don’t ask for assistance because they don’t understand their disability
* Unfair treatment; judged by clothes, money, etc.
* Parental support sometimes lacking
* Health, depression, substance abuse, etc.
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Complied from: Focus Groups and Interviews with Youth, Parents, Educators, AEA staff, and Service Providers



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