

Improving Transition Outcomes

An Innovative State Alignment Grant for Improving Transition Outcomes
for Youth with Disabilities Through the Use of Intermediaries

Award Winning CASE Prototype

Improving Transition Outcomes with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Governance Group partners Department for the Blind, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Division of Persons with Disabilities, Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council, and Workforce Development, is proud to announce that on April 20, 2006



Hope Haven, Inc. received the Innovation and Quality Award in recognition of the "Careers and Self Exploration"

Iowa Department for the Blind

Iowa Department of Education

Iowa Department of Human Services

Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Iowa Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council

Iowa Workforce Development

at the Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP) Annual Conference, Hope Haven, Inc. received the Innovation and Quality Award in recognition of the "Careers and Self Exploration" (CASE) prototype of West Sioux Community School in Hawarden, Iowa.

The award recognizes a high quality, innovative program that enhances the quality of life for persons with disabilities and/or mental illness. Accepting the award were: Scott Witte, Hope Haven Director of Client Services and CASE team member; David R. VanNingen, Hope Haven Executive Director; Melanie Pottebaum, CASE Practitioner and Suzan Loverink, Hope Haven Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation Area Supervisor.

The West Sioux CASE Prototype is one of three community demonstrations implementing strategies to improve transition outcomes for youth with disabilities ages 14-24. Each prototype tests, adjusts and perfects strategies to meet the needs of youth, families, educators, employers and the larger community. Preparation for, securing, and maintaining employment are among the prototype outcome measures. Soliciting input from those "on the front lines" is a hallmark of Transition Partners.

In May 2004, Hope Haven took the initiative to organize the West Sioux Consortium for Improving Transition Outcomes (CITO) for youth in West Sioux High School's Resource Room. They organized around the goal of "Youth

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with disabilities will make empowered and well-informed career choices that result in employment consistent with their vocational goals." West Sioux CITO partners developed a transition service model they named Career Awareness and Self-Exploration (CASE). The partners sought and received grant funding for implementation and testing through Improving Transition Outcomes with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, funded by the U. S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy.

The key to the CASE project is that youth engage in and direct their career search using community resources. The tool used to implement this career planning process, the CASE curriculum, was derived from a person-centered model of service known as Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation (IPR), which has been utilized throughout Iowa to assist people with psychiatric disabilities in achieving personally satisfying outcomes.

For two years now, eleventh grade students in the Special Education Resource Room at West Sioux High School have selected their career goals using the CASE curriculum and worked in the corresponding entrepreneurship component, Falcon Joe's Coffee Shop. The positive results achieved by the youth include a tremendous boost in self-concept and the realization that dreams are more easily pursued when you are aware of the resources available to you.

It appears that the goal of West Sioux High School maintaining the CASE curriculum and Falcon Joe's without additional funding will be realized and that replication will be achieved through neighboring school districts. Replication tools are under development.

West Sioux Consortium for Improving Transition Outcomes (CITO) partners who worked with Hope Haven, Inc. and West Sioux School to develop and monitor CASE include: youth with disabilities and family members, Area Education Agency 4, the



Hawarden Area Partnership for Progress business community, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the local Transition Advisory Board, and Workforce Development.

Improving Transition Outcomes, with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Governance Group partners, congratulates Hope Haven, Inc. and the West Sioux Consortium for Improving Transition Outcomes on a job well done!

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