Partners for Transition:

Improving Transition Outcomes for Henry CO Youth

# Interviews: We Want to Hear From the Youth of Henry CO

Because youth leaving school and successfully entering the adult workforce or continuing their education impacts the entire community, Healthy Henry CO Communities secured funds to improve this process for Henry CO youth with disabilities. On behalf of Healthy Henry CO Communities, the Henry CO Extension wrote a grant to Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services and received funding for it. The purpose of the Project is to look at ways to improve the post school outcomes of Youth in Henry CO who have barriers to making a successful transition to the adult world. These students might be receiving assistance from a Resource Room or a Special Class with Integration, they might be receiving an accommodation to help them take tests or read assignments, they might have a special health need, or they might be receiving special services outside the school (i.e., mental health counseling). A major component of this Project is to ask Youth who are at transition age (ages 14-24) their thoughts regarding effective transition services or experiences. To do this, the Project calls for conducting ***individual*** interviews with Youth who are at different stages in the Transition process as well as Youth who have made different decisions regarding their educational experiences. At least five Youth from the following groups will be interviewed:

 Junior, and Seniors in traditional High Schools

 Junior, and Seniors in Alternative School settings

 Youth who have graduated from traditional High Schools

 Youth who have graduated from Alternative School settings

 Youth who have dropped out of traditional High Schools

 Youth who have dropped out of Alternative School settings

The Interview is not a test. There are no right or wrong answers; rather the Project wants the input of the Youth. The questions range from asking the Youth what is important to them at this point in their life to what would they like to tell other students to help them through the transition years as defined by the Project (ages 16--24). There is also a short demographic information sheet the students will be asked to complete. Example questions include name, address, what extra curricular activities the student was in during high school, people living in their home, and problems that they feel they have/had regarding transition. All responses are considered confidential. If you are interested in a copy of the report summarizing all the interviews conducted, please feel free to contact me.

The interviews will probably be recorded to ensure the information is gathered accurately. It is anticipated that the interviews will take approximately one hour and will be scheduled at a time and place convenient for the Youth. They will not be responsible for transportation or other expenses.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me:

SueAnn Morrow, Ph.D.

Project Coordinator

319-931-5781 Cell/Work 319-385-1365 Home/Work 319-385-8126 Extension Office