SEPTA Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2017

Sherman Elementary School

Mandy VanVleet announced that the registration deadline for Project SEARCH and Life without Limits is December 15.

Lauri Malnory said that the annual mailing of procedural safeguards and Sp Ed rights was sent out this week. Also included were other announcements and a mailing about the SEPTA.

**First Speaker: Karen Weld, instructor of Life Without Limits**

LWL is a non-academic program for students that have met their graduation requirements.

It is all community-based instruction; they rent a space downtown.

Addressing self-advocacy and independent living, helping to prepare students for the adult world.

They work on identifying the resources they will need as adults.

There are no school buses – the do training on the city bus in the summer and also some students walk, take taxis, ride bikes, etc.

They do a number of transition activities: focus on leisure, benefits analysis, career training, health care, job training, volunteer, social activities, etc.

There is a heavy focus on career exploration.

They have many agency partners: ADRC, CVTV, DWD,UWEC, Western Dairyland, YMCA, Workforce Resources, RCU

They participate in the following career exploration clusters: construction, customer service, healthcare, hospitality, IT, manufacturing,. Every Friday they have a tour that matches a career exploration topic.

UWEC student nurses work with students to develop an adult health plan, help them to know how to make their own appointments, refill medications.

Who should apply for LWL? Any student who has transition goals and has met the graduation requirements, can be independent in the community, is willing to learn the city bus and wants to have a job.

**Second Speaker – Jennifer Steffes, Mayo Clinic Health Sytems, Business Liaison for Project SEARCH**

Project SEARCH is a business-led program for 18-21 yo with disabilities

The program is one school year and is the last year before a student accepts their diploma. Can take up to 12 students.

Students from the surrounding districts are invited to apply. No transportation is provided.

It is a partnership between ECASD, Mayo, DVR, LE Phillips Career Development Center and long-term care providers.

The goal is to instruct in soft skills and work skills that will lead to long term, competitive, integrated employment

Over the school year, students complete 3 internships within different departments at Mayo.

They have one full time teacher and two full time skills trainers onsite to support the interns while they are on the job site. Consistent on-site support leads to success.

Mayo desires to change the way people with disabilities are viewed in the workplace and hopes that other employers will follow in offering opportunities to all.

The goal is for students to be employed 16 hours per week at minimum wage or higher, which is a very strong goal considering the normal high unemployment rate for people with disabilities.

It is a very structured program, with full days that follow the school calendar.

Who should apply for Project SEARCH? Students who are in their last year of schooling, have appropriate hygiene, have an ability to take directions and change behavior, can function in a professional environment and have an ability to learn social/communication skills. Students who have a strong desire to work.

Both speakers were thanked for attending the meeting and answered questions during their presentations and afterwards.