

# Conference Schedule

## MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014

PRE CONFERENCE	
9:30-12:00	Show Me Careers Leadership Institute
10:00-4:00	Registration
12:00-1:30	Opening Session-Keynote Speaker
1:30-1:45	Break
1:45-2:45	Breakout Session A
1:45-4:00	Show Me Careers Leadership Institute (Cont'd)
2:45-3:00	Break
3:00-4:00	Breakout Session B

## TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

8:00-9:30	Community Engagement General Session
9:30-9:45	Break
9:45-10:45	Breakout Session C
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	Breakout Session D
12:00-12:45	Sponsored Luncheon
12:45-1:30	Special Recognitions
1:30-2:30	General Session/Transition Coalition Action Planning Session VR Transition Planning (VR Counselors) Dropout Prevention General Session
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:45	Breakout Session E

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014

8:00-9:00	Breakout Session F
9:00-9:15	Break
9:15-10:15	Breakout Session G
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	Closing Session

# 2014 Missouri Transition Institute & Dropout Prevention Summit

June 23-25, 2014

Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, MO

## PRESENTERS SCHEDULE

**BREAKOUT STRANDS:** The breakout sessions are identified as the following.

xxA Student Engagement      xxB Parent Engagement

xxC Community Engagement      xxD Dropout Prevention

Attendees are not bound to any particular strand unless otherwise identified.

Monday, June 23, 2014

### 12:00-1:30, Student Engagement General Session

**TITLE: I'm Determined Project,** Amanda Randall- State Coordinator I'm Determined Project, Cameron Wilmer- I'm Determined Project Youth Leader, Annie Downing-I'm Determined Project Youth Leader, Nic Silvey-I'm Determined Project Youth Leader

**DESCRIPTION:** A critical marker of success in post-secondary education & beyond is the degree to which individuals with disabilities become a guiding force in their life. Virginia Department of Education's I'm Determined Project Youth Leaders will use video and storytelling to present their experiences with self-determination as a critical marker of success. Participants will walk away more aware of the issues at hand and how to address the issues within their school. Participants will learn general strategies to promote postsecondary education success for students with disabilities.

### Breakout Session A 1:45-2:45

#### **A1A: A Pathway to Employment (Piccadilly's)**

Darla Wilkerson, Parent & Transition Mentor, MPACT

This session will provide parents with information about youth career planning and how that planning process helps shape a pathway to employment after high school. We will discuss some strategies that parents/guardians can use to promote a smoother transition for their sons and/or daughters into the adult world of work. What are some expectations and ways to engage in the process as well as what to do to help prepare youth to have successful employment opportunities?

#### **A2A: Transition Outcomes Project in Missouri (TOPs) (Truman)**

Ed O'Leary

This session will provide an introduction and overview of the TOPs Project in Missouri. Over 180 Missouri districts have been involved in the TOPs Project during the past seven years. The DESE Report: Indicator 13 Over Time: Three year Trend Analysis of 13 Missouri Districts showed statistically significant gains in meeting Indicator 13 compliance from district participation in the TOPs program. Missouri IEP transition data on over 13,000 IEP self-reviews will be included.

#### **A3B: The Role of Social and Informational Networks in Family Involvement in Special Education (Parliament III)**

Zach McCall, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City

This session reports survey and interview data documenting how family members of transition-age youth draw on social support and informational networks when navigating the special education process. I will discuss advocacy strategies and network differences based on racial/ethnic and socioeconomic positions and provide suggestions for ways that educators can support family members' efforts to increase their networks and build more effective partnerships for transition planning.

#### **A4B: A GOOD LIFE when the School Bus Stops Coming: Ben's Story (Polo)**

Jane St. John & Ben St. John, Parent and Child

Ben, along with his parent, Jane, will describe his "good life" in the community now that "the bus has stopped coming". They will discuss ways that Ben prepared for adult life as part of his transition plan, how the family used their social capital to bring about opportunities, how supports put into place in elementary school impacted transition, how Ben is supported in his adult life without guardianship, and what has happened in the 3 years since Ben turned 21.

#### **A5C: United Challenge (Windsor I)**

Rachel M.R. Victor M.Ed, Learning Specialist at Columbia Public Schools

Columbia Public Schools hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual United Challenge. The event paired students with special needs with typical peers in a day of skills activities. Teams from all the district's high schools competed in a variety of skills challenges, races, and events. The purpose of the United Challenge was to bridge the gap, both socially and physically, between regular and special education students. While events were being scored, the main objective was to provide a fun social event where students from different backgrounds and skill levels can work together toward a common goal.

#### **A6C: Student-Led IEP Meetings in Missouri- Is it happening? (Windsor II)**

Marilyn Smith, Special School District, Transition Effective Practice Specialist, Transition Liaison

For many years, self-advocacy and student-led IEP meetings have been topics of local and state-wide professional development opportunities provided to special educators across the State. This session provides an overview of findings from survey data and teacher perceptions on student rates, implementation factors, benefits and barriers impacting student-led IEP meetings in Missouri.

#### **A7D: DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT GENERAL SESSION: Tools for Successfully Navigating Your Journey to School Completion: A Flight Plan for Success in Kindergarten Through High School (Parliament I & II)**

Dr. Sandra Covington Smith, Sue Furth, Robin Morrison, John Artinger

*For Description, See "Dropout Prevention Strand Descriptions" page*

#### **Breakout Session B 3:00-4:00**

##### **B1A: Student Led I.E.Ps (Piccadilly's)**

Carrie, Ragsdale, West Regional Facilitator, MPACT

Engaging students to participate in their IEP meetings has been shown to develop student's skills in self advocacy and self determination. This training will provide parents and their children with a better understanding of what an IEP is and why it is important as well as how to participate in and present information at their own IEP meetings.

##### **B2A: Pathways to Prosperity: Helping all students with successful post-secondary transitions (Truman)**

### **Bragg Stanley, EdD, Regional Director, Mid-Missouri Pathways to Prosperity Network**

This presentation will provide an overview of DESE's Pathways to Prosperity Initiative. The initiative is designed to support schools in the reinforcement of academic standards, but also in making those standards relevant to students by incorporating meaningful work-based learning experiences. The initiative also encourages teacher externships in order that educators can be real-world problems based learning into the classroom.

### **B3B: Learning at Home: Leveraging Parent Behaviors for Academic Success. (Parliament III)**

Charles J. Pearson, Learning Resource Consultant, Education Plus; Director of Professional Development, HOME WORKS! The Teacher Home Visit Program

Participants will be introduced to Joyce Epstein's Level 4 Parent Engagement Behavior: Learning at Home. While all aspects of parental behavior and parental involvement support children and enhance the development of relationships between teachers and families, "Learning at Home" behaviors have a specific impact on student achievement. Participants will learn how to communicate these behaviors to parents in user-friendly language while deepening their own understanding of these strategies.

### **B4B: Family Involvement in Missouri Connections (Polo)**

Jackie Coleman, Missouri Trainer, Missouri Connections

With the rapid rate of change in the workplace, young people will need more career guidance than ever before. Research shows that when it comes to important decisions-like education and career choices-children value their family's input. This session will provide tools and resources to help parents/guardians support their students through career preparation using the FREE **Missouri Connections** internet-based career information system. The presenter will demonstrate how to access and use Missouri Connections to help students identify career goals, empower them to find their best career fit, support them to search for the right school, enhance their knowledge of financial aid and encourage them to refine their job search skills.

### **B5C: Missouri Centers for Independent Living (Windsor I)**

Kelly Cook, Assistant Director, Deaf & Hard of Hearing/Supervisor, Independent Living, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, Lacey Thompson, Executive Administrative Assistant, Southwest Center for Independent Living, Springfield & Dr. Dennis Atkins, Executive Director, Disabled Citizen Alliance for Independence, Viburnum

This session will give an overview of Centers for Independent Living as well as a snapshot on two projects being conducted by local Independent Living Centers. This includes A Day at the Range - Accessible Outdoors from the Southwest Center for Independent Living and the Annual Fill a Backpack One Mile at a Time project from Disabled Citizen Alliance for Independence in Viburnum.

### **B6C: Bright Futures (Windsor II)**

Kim Vann, Director of Communications & Community Development, Joplin School District

Learn how one Midwest school district successfully engaged various aspects of the community to create support structures around kids and school staff in the midst of heavy budget cuts. This model has been adopted by other communities and profound change has occurred. Discover what strategies were used to educate and engage these community partners.

**B7D: DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT GENERAL SESSION: Tools for Successfully Navigating Your Journey to School Completion: A Flight Plan for Success in Kindergarten Through High School CONTINUED (Parliament I & II)**

Dr. Sandra Covington Smith, Sue Furth, Robin Morrison, John Artinger  
*For Description, See "Dropout Prevention Strand Descriptions" page*

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

**8:00-9:30, Community Engagement General Session**

**TITLE: Family and Community Engagement for Student Success: The Why, What, and How of Partnering**, Darcy J. Hutchins, Ph.D. is the Family Partnership Director for the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

**DESCRIPTION:** Family and community engagement is critically important for students' academic and nonacademic achievement in school. Yet family and community engagement are often trumped by the other day to day demands in schools and districts. This session focuses on the why, what, and how of partnering of with families and the community for student success. Why is partnering so important for student success? What are the high-impact partnering strategies that impact student achievement? How do schools and districts implement a comprehensive, sustainable partnership structure for student success? This session includes an overview of the partnering research, examples of promising partnership practices, and a research-based partnership structure to reach results for every student.

**Breakout Session C 9:45-10:45**

**C1A: Engagement and Leadership Strategies for Student with Emotional Disturbance (Piccadilly's)**  
Zach McCall, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Kansas City

This presentation makes use of prior and original research to highlight concrete, evidence-supported strategies for facilitating student engagement and leadership development among students with emotional disturbance. Participants will take part in structured brainstorming supporting future engagement and leadership practice and research.

**C2A: The Customized Pegboard: Individualizing Transition Services for Students with ASD (Truman)**  
Kimberly Conrad, MS, Assistant Director of ASD Services/District Supervisor, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, Kristina Johnston, MS, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor II, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, Tamara Marshall, MS, District Supervisor, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, Janet Young, MS-CCC-SLP, Speech/Language Pathologist & Work Experience Coordinator, Nixa Public High Schools

This breakout session will highlight programs and strategies within the state that are providing opportunities for family involvement and improving outcomes for students. Attendees will hear from individual members of these transition teams as well as the experiences of students served in these programs. We will share success, as measured through post-secondary education and employment after graduation. A handout will be provided with highlights of the presentation as well as contact information for attendees to partner with these counselors and educators to implement successful programs in their own districts.

**C3B: Family Dynamics: Keeping Everyone Involved (Parliament III)**

LuAnn Reese, Statewide Family Support Coordinator, Department of Mental Health

This session will cover the dynamics of families and how it's starts to change when our youth start wanting more voice in their plans. Also, understanding the emotions, (fear, scared, etc) that parents/caregivers deal with during this time of change. Included will be strategies for moving beyond that point and continue to keep the parents/caregivers involved. As well as the importance of connecting youth to people in the community. Doing this by exploring options that build on THEIR interest and strengths.

#### **C4B: The Art of Effective Advocacy (Polo)**

Carla Abilid, Regional Coordinator, MPACT

Learn the importance of keeping and organizing your child's records, as well as what information needs to be in your child's file. We will also discuss how to communicate more effectively with your child's school district and the importance of working collaboratively to solve problems.

#### **C5C: Show-Me-Careers Pilot Community Panel Discussion (Windsor I)**

Show Me Careers Pilot Community Members

Missouri's Show-Me-Careers project is supporting partnerships in eight areas of the state to enhance practices that support seamless transitions to integrated employment for youth with disabilities. These community partnerships are focused on achieving this outcome through enhanced collaboration and coordination of resources, expanding businesses partnerships, and increasing the number of youth accessing early work experiences. This panel discussion will host representatives from a number of these communities who will discuss their community initiatives and share their lessons learned to date.

#### **C6A: Transition Resources for Youth ([www.tr4y.org](http://www.tr4y.org)) Website – Introductory Overview**

Mary Kampa and Ed O'Leary (Windsor II)

Districts are required to use evidence-based practices when providing transition services. This session will provide an introduction to the Transition Resources for Youth website ([www.tr4y.org](http://www.tr4y.org)), an interactive web-based system that utilizes the National Predictors of Post School Success and Indicator 13 Requirements and Effective Practices. Districts conduct a self-assessment to identify areas of transition strength and need, and then use this information to develop a comprehensive district transition improvement plan. Educators and transition consultants will have direct access to high quality transition resources, evidenced based practices, and improvement activities that are linked directly to district needs. Individuals and district teams will have an opportunity to continue the self-assessment during the Session E2A.

#### **C7D: ECSE Start Dropout Prevention early! (Parliament I)**

Stacey Tracy: Director of Special Services, Brandi Ensore: ECSE Teacher, Mandy Ohlhausen: ECSE Teacher, Johnna Burton: Behavior Specialist, Neosho School District

This session includes a close look at how ECSE classrooms are set up in an ABA structure. This structure is relevant for PK-2 grades for students with low academics, social skill, and language deficits. Allow you students to experience success from the very start of their school careers. We will layout how to structure the learning environment, discrete trial teaching (with video demonstrations) and small group activities for students with the most significant behavior. Time spent at the earlier ages can save your upper level teachers much time and energy later on in the student's career!

#### **C8D: Project WALK: Student Voice and Effective Student Engagement (Parliament II)**

Erin Wilson, Denise Inman, Karen Esepseth, Project WALK, Hazelwood West High School

During this presentation, we will discuss how we started the program, overview, demographics, pitfalls and celebrations for the first two years of our dropout prevention program.

#### **Breakout Session D 11:00-12:00**

##### **D1A: Missouri Peer Support Project (Piccadilly's)**

April J. Regester, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Special Education, ECETS Department - University of Missouri, St. Louis

This presentation will outline the steps taken in developing and implementing a peer supports program in Missouri public high schools. The collaborative project aims to increase meaningful relationships and academic outcomes for all students with and without disabilities who participate. The program entails peer supports and advocacy skills training for educators, students of all abilities, and administrators at each site to promote inclusion in academic classes and social activities on their campus. Various stakeholders will be present to describe their experiences with this innovative project. Specific program information, preliminary data, and future steps will be shared.

##### **D2A: Building Assets and Promoting Choice for Students with Disabilities (Truman)**

Charles "Chaz" Nickolaus, Program Specialist, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, Theresa Scherer, Director of Employment Network, L.I.F.E. Inc. Employment Solutions Farmington, MO

The goal of this session is to provide an overview for teachers in assisting students with disabilities learn more about working, benefits, saving, building assets and the tools and strategies to use to help make good decisions in these areas. This session will be interactive and provide resources for teachers to use in the class room.

##### **D3B: Transitioning the Highly Functioning but Lowly Motivated to the Real World: There is No Such Thing as a Perfect Job (Parliament III)**

Ellen Morgan, Parent

This session will cover the challenges of motivating and facilitating a special needs child into the real world from a parent's perspective.

##### **D4A: Transition Toolkit from Autism Speaks (Polo)**

Terri Carrington, M.A., CCC-SLP, Autism Resource Specialist with Missouri State University (MSU) Project ACCESS

Project ACCESS receives many calls from parents of individuals with autism spectrum disorders who have graduated from high school, but have not been successful with employment or post-secondary education. This presentation provides an overview of transition issues specific to individuals on the spectrum and points the participant to selected resources. Included in these resources is a Transition Toolkit developed by Autism Speaks. This kit provides suggestions and options for participants to consider.

##### **D5C: Assistive Technology in the Community (Windsor I)**

John Effinger, Program Coordinator & David Baker, Program Coordinator, Missouri Assistive Technology

The evolution of assistive technology has provided users with an ever growing array of devices that can help individuals access their communities. Attendees to this session will be introduced to some of the newest devices that improve community access for individuals with autism, mobility impairments, communication issues, visual impairments and learning disabilities.

##### **D6A: Strategies and Resources for Extending Research to Practice (Windsor II)**

Lydia Schuck, National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) works to identify effective secondary education practices and transition services. This presentation describes strategies for building local capacity to improve transition education and illustrates resources to implement the practices in local programs. Participants will be able to access materials for integrating evidence-based practices in their transition education and services programs.

**D7D: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy (Parliament I)**

Tammy Ridgeway, Jefferson City Public Schools

**D8D: Willow Springs Dropout Prevention Program**

**Jimalee James, Principal, Chris Waggoner, Curriculum Coordinator, Willow Springs High School (Parliament II)**

This session will highlight a variety of supports in place for students in a rural south-central Missouri high school.

**12:00-1:30 Sponsored Lunch**

**1:30-2:30 GENERAL SESSION: Transition Coalition Action Planning**

**1:30-2:30 VR Action Planning**

**1:30-2:30 DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT ROUND ROBIN SESSION: (Parliament I & II)**

**Preparing For the Journey to School Completion: Experiences and Perspectives From the Field: Recommendations and Strategies at the State, District, and Building Level**

Dr. Sandra Covington Smith, Sue Furth, Robin Morrison, John Artinger

*For Description, See "Dropout Prevention Strand Descriptions" page*

**Breakout Session E 2:45-3:45**

**E1A: SUCCEED Project (Piccadilly's)**

April Register, University of Missouri, St. Louis

**E2A: Transition Resources for Youth ([www.tr4y.org](http://www.tr4y.org)) Website – Self-Assessment Work Time (Truman)**

Mary Kampa and Ed O'Leary

This session will provide guided assistance to districts who have previously participated in TR4Y website training, including participation in session C6A today and time to conduct individual or team self-assessment of the Predictors of Post School Success on the TR4Y website. This work will be completed on-line so participants need to bring a laptop or iPad. Participants will leave this session with a completed self-assessment that can be used for transition improvement planning.

**E3B: Foundations of Parent Engagement (Parliament III)**

Susan Bird, University of Missouri, Kansas City – Institute for Human Development

Families have an extraordinary opportunity to impact their communities, change social attitudes and influence public policy. Family engagement and leadership are key to maximizing this opportunity throughout their children's educational career and beyond, into the workforce and broader community arenas. Explore strategies and tools to encourage, increase and develop family engagement and leadership starting from an early age and continuing throughout the entire life course.

#### **E4B: Collaboration with Children’s Division to Strengthen Educational Success of Children and Youth (Polo)**

Crystal Wilson & Lori Masek, Children’s Division

A quality education is critical to any child’s well-being and future success, especially for children and youth in the child welfare system. This session will assist participants in understanding their role in collaborating with the Children’s Division to help children and youth succeed in school. Participants will be provided information on how the Children’s Division works with children and youth in the education system. The session will cover topics such as confidentiality, mandated reporter laws, and local collaborations.

#### **E5C: Improving Post-School Outcomes: Community Experiences and Implementation of Predictors of Post-School Success (Windsor I)**

Caroline MaGee, Senior Research Assistant, National Post School Outcomes Center, University of Oregon

In this session, participants will examine their current transition programs and how to provide opportunities for Community Experiences for youth with disabilities.

#### **E6C: Developing Transportation Solutions for Missourians (Windsor II)**

Charles “Chaz” Nickolaus, Transportation Specialist, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council

Transportation continues to be a major barrier to employment and community inclusion for persons with disabilities. This session will explore the current state of transportation in Missouri and learn about opportunities to improve transportation in your local community. A special focus of this presentation will be about transportation for employment. Participants will learn about and be given the *Developing Transportation Solutions* workbook developed by the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council.

#### **E7D: DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT ROUND ROBIN SESSION: (Parliament I & II)**

##### **Preparing For the Journey to School Completion: Experiences and Perspectives From the Field: Recommendations and Strategies at the State, District, and Building Level**

Dr. Sandra Covington Smith, Sue Furth, Robin Morrison, John Artinger

*For Description, See “Dropout Prevention Strand Descriptions” page*

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

#### **Breakout Session F 8:00-9:00**

##### **F1A: Maximizing Student Involvement in Missouri Connections (Piccadilly’s)**

Jackie Coleman, Missouri Trainer, Missouri Connections

**Missouri Connections**, a FREE internet-based career information system, has just what students need to help them plan for life beyond high school. This session will focus on the MY Portfolio feature, an electronic personalized folder where students can save and track their career preparation. Attendees will also get a “sneak” preview of the new 2014 planning tools and reports designed to increase student involvement in Missouri Connections- Combined Report of Assessments, Personal Education Plan Report, Career Preparation Checklists, Application Tracker and more.

##### **F2A: #SCStrong (Truman)**

Corey Hahn, Activities Director Lori Wootten, Guidance Counselor, Katie Schweitzer, Guidance Counselor, St. Charles School District

Fostering attachments and sense of belonging to your school by creating an inclusive culture of success for students, staff and community. #SCstrong stresses involvement and servant leadership as the bond that ties students, staff and community into one common goal - one success culture.

**F3A: Transition Resources for Youth ([www.tr4y.org](http://www.tr4y.org)) Website – Transition Improvement Planning (Parliament III)**

Mary Kampa and Ed O’Leary

This session will provide guided assistance to districts that have completed an individual or team self-assessment of the Predictors of Post School Success Self-Assessment on the TR4Y website. Participants will leave with additional resources and assistance to further develop transition improvement plans.

**F4B: Assistive Technology-Transition from High School to Post Secondary Education (Polo)**

John Effinger, Program Coordinator & David Baker, Program Coordinator, Missouri Assistive Technology

During their primary and secondary years, students with disabilities may be provided with assistive technology (AT) and related services under IDEA. When students with disabilities matriculate to post-secondary education, the need, more often than not, continues to exist, but the playing field changes considerably. This session is designed to help participants determine what AT and related services students may need and possible methods for fulfilling these needs. In addition, participants will be provided with an overview of the role colleges and universities can play in helping to assure a successful transition from high school to post-secondary education.

**F5B: Life Course Framework and Tools for a Good Life (Windsor I)**

Jane St. John, University of Missouri Kansas City – Institute for Human Development

Using the framework of life course supports is a new way of looking at service delivery for individuals with disabilities and their families. Missouri’s Family to Family Network has begun to use the framework of life course, which has not only changed services in Missouri, but life outcomes. Life course framework involves supporting individuals their families across the entire lifespan, with each life domain thinking about and interacting with the rest. This session will provide an overview of what we mean by “life course”, and share tools and strategies for charting a course for a good life for transitioning youth and their families.

**F6C: Post-School Outcomes Data: A National and State of Missouri Perspective (Windsor II)**

Caroline MaGee, Senior Research Assistant, National Post School Outcomes Center, University of Oregon

In this session, participants will learn about post-school outcomes data (National/State) and how to use data to make decisions to improve post-school outcomes of youth with disabilities.

**F7D: DROPOUT PREVENTION SUMMIT ROUND ROBIN SESSION: (Parliament I & II)**

**Preparing For the Journey to School Completion: Experiences and Perspectives From the Field: Recommendations and Strategies at the State, District, and Building Level**

Dr. Sandra Covington Smith, Sue Furth, Robin Morrison, John Artinger

*For Description, See “Dropout Prevention Strand Descriptions” page*

**Breakout Session G 9:15-10:15**

**G1A: Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (Piccadilly’s)**

Dawn Evans, Disability Program Specialist, Governor’s Council on Disability

### **G2A: Engaging Transition Age Youth (Truman)**

Andrea Aderton, Tiffany Sturdivant, Marcia Dutcher, Healthy Transition Initiative

Through participation in an initiative called Healthy Transitions, four mental health centers in Jackson County are learning how to better engage youth and young adults 15 – 25 years of age in the services they need. Workshop participants will hear an overview of the initiative and new research guiding work with this unique age group.

### **G3B: Self-Directed Students: Living Real Lives, Dreaming Big Dreams (Parliament III)**

Kathie Snow, Disabilityisnatural.com

Students with disabilities may experience helplessness, dependence, isolation, and hopelessness. But when they have important tools for success—including assistive technology and more natural forms of assistance—they can enjoy greater self-reliance and inclusion, and can also live the lives of their dreams!

### **G4B: Parent’s Facilitate, Youth Take Action (Polo)**

Julie Orf, MPACT

The information discussed in this training will help parents understand the importance of planning for adult life. Hands-on activities are provided to practice using skills for problem solving, goal setting, and participation in their IEP meeting.

### **G5C: A “Taste” Mental Health First Aid (Windsor II)**

Vickie Epple, Provider Outcomes & Contract Quality Manager, Department of Mental Health

This presentation will give a brief overview of the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. After taking this session you will understand the basic ALGEE mnemonic which is used throughout the training. This is a 5-step action plan to assess a situation and help.

### **G6A Increasing Student Engagement Through Self-Determination (Windsor I)**

Dana Lattin, Transition Coalition, University of Kansas, Center for Research on Learning

This interactive session will briefly review the concept of self-determination and provide participants with a number of classroom materials, curricula, and web resources that can be used. Participants will have an opportunity to look at and review the materials during this session.

### **G7D: DROPOUT PREVENTION GENERAL SESSION CLOSED SESSION: Building Capacity: Developing Your Itinerary for Success ----- (Parliament I & II)**

Dr. Sandra Covington Smith, Sue Furth, Robin Morrison, John Artinger

*For Description, See “Dropout Prevention Strand Descriptions” page*

### **10:30-12:00 – Closing Session: Parent Engagement**

#### **Title: Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense**

Kathie Snow, Disabilityisnatural.com

**Description:** Yes, like gender, ethnicity, and other traits, disability is one of many natural characteristics of being human! What can happen when we deconstruct disability, use People First Language, and focus on students' strengths and abilities? Our attitudes drive our actions, and awesome change is possible when we think and talk differently!