

# YOUTH TRANSITION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014

## SUPPORT GROUPS

The Youth Transition Specialist and the District 186 Parent Mentor, Ms. Mary Wyman, continue to host the Support Groups for Teens/Young Adults and Parent 2 Parent (P2P), which are sponsored jointly by SCIL and District 186. With input from parents, SCIL and District 186, we are here to address topics that are of interest to every teen/young adult with disabilities and their parents in Springfield and area wide school districts. Future topics will be determined by those teens/young adults and parents who attended the previous month's meetings.

The Teen/Young Adult Support group continues to be for any teen/young adult with a disability between the ages of 14-21. P2P will be part of this support group meeting and is for any parent who has a student with a disability in Springfield and surrounding area school districts. These meetings are a good way to socialize, develop new friendships, share stories and connect with others. Meetings are for any teens/young adults and parents; family members interested in learning more are always welcome to attend. Light refreshments and child care will be provided (from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.). Please watch your mail for announcements of the topics for future support group meetings.

All meetings will be conducted at the Springfield YMCA (corner of 4th & Cook Streets) from 5:30 to 7:30 on the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise announced.

Please contact Carolyn Thorpe, SCIL Youth Transition Specialist, at 523-2587 v/tty, or Mary Wyman, District 186 Parent Mentor, at 525-3060, at least two days in advance before attending any meetings so adequate refreshments can be provided. The next meeting is scheduled for **September 10, 2014**. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty. I look forward to welcoming returning and new parents and teens to this group!

**SCIL will be closed on the following dates:  
Friday, July 4, 2014 for Independence Day  
Monday, September 1, 2014 for Labor Day**

## EQUIP FOR EQUALITY TRAINING INSTITUTE ON WRITING MEASURABLE GOALS

The Equip for Equality (EFE) Training Institute offers trainings on a variety of topics. One in specific, writing measurable goals, helps families of children with disabilities make sure these goals are written correctly at their students' next IEP.

The EFE Training Institute has supplied specific criteria about what is needed to write a measurable goal (see the template below) and what information can be used to create a Transition Goal.

### Goal Writing Template

- Help make the goal measurable
- Data collection is vital
- Ensure everyone will work on the goal the same way
- Keep the goal realistic and relevant to the student
- For example:

\_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Student) (do what-with what?) (when?) (how well?) (where?)

(Student) Mary will (do what?) correctly write 10 spelling words (with what?) from the third grade spelling list (when?) on a weekly basis (how well?) with 80% accuracy (where?) that will be given to her by her resource teacher.

### Transition Goals

- Every IEP goal could be a transition goal
- The focus of every IEP in high school is on getting the student where they want to be after high school
- Investigating resources, finding information and building supports are goals

## WEBSITES ABOUT SCHOOL CLIMATE AND FAIR DISCIPLINE

Below are eight websites about providing students, with disabilities, disciplinary measures that are fair, positive and suitable. Parents also want to make sure that their child's school offers a climate that promotes/encourages student achievement and promotes success all year. These resources may assist parents in understanding what a positive school "climate" should feel and/or look like and what assurances they will have knowing that their student is being well educated in their least restrictive environment with applicable supports and services in place.

1. <http://passageworks.org/creating-positive-school-climates-practicing-equitable-discipline/>
2. <http://www.character.org/key-topics/school-climate/>
3. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec08/vol66/num04/The-Challenge-of-Assessing-School-Climate.aspx>
4. [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/finding\\_common\\_ground/2013/12/does\\_your\\_school\\_climate\\_focus\\_on\\_learning.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/finding_common_ground/2013/12/does_your_school_climate_focus_on_learning.html)
5. <http://www.behavioradvisor.com/SchoolWideSystem.html>
6. <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/beh/pdf/3.pdf>
7. <http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/discipline.stud.dis.dwyer.pdf>
8. <http://findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/school-climate/implications-for-school-discipline>

## **BACK TO WORK: A JOB SEARCH LEARNING SERIES**

The Illinois WorkNet Center is offering five rotating series of workshops. You can attend workshops in any order but to receive a Certificate of Completion, you must attend all five workshops. The following workshops will be conducted every Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 at the Illinois WorkNet Center located at 1300 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St. in Conference Room A. For more information, contact Valarie LeSeure at 217-558-4268.

July 1 - Week One: The Survival Guide to a Successful Job Search

July 8 - Week Two: Internet Employment Searching and On-Line Applications

July 15 - Week Three: Writing Effective Resumes, Cover Letters and Thank You Letters

July 22 - Week Four: Preparing for the Interview - What Your Mother Never Told You

July 29 - Week Five: Community Service Presentation

August 5 - Week One: The Survival Guide to a Successful Job Search

August 12 - Week Two: Internet Employment Searching and On-Line Applications

August 19 - Week Three: Writing Effective Resumes, Cover Letters and Thank You Letters

August 26 - Week Four: Preparing for the Interview - What Your Mother Never Told You

September 2 - Week Five: Community Service Presentation

September 9 - Week One: The Survival Guide to a Successful Job Search

September 16 - Week Two: Internet Employment Searching and On-Line Applications

September 23 - Week Three: Writing Effective Resumes, Cover Letters and Thank You Letters

September 30 - Week Four: Preparing for the Interview - What Your Mother Never Told You

October 7 - Week Five: Community Service Presentation

October 14 - Week One: The Survival Guide to a Successful Job Search

October 21 - Week Two: Internet Employment Searching and On-Line Applications

October 28 - Week Three: Writing Effective Resumes, Cover Letters and Thank You Letters

***\*\*No workshops will be conducted on November 4<sup>th</sup> or November 11<sup>th</sup>\*\****

November 18 - Week Four: Preparing for the Interview - What Your Mother Never Told You

November 25 - Week Five: Community Service Presentation

***"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do,  
and liking how you do it."***

***~ Maya Angelou***

## ILLINOIS STATEWIDE TRANSITION CONFERENCE

Save the Date! The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference will be conducted on October 27-28, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL. To download the registration booklet and/or to register on-line, please visit [www.illinoistransitionconference.org](http://www.illinoistransitionconference.org) or call Tara Dunning at 217-744-7777 for more information.

Full conference registration fees are \$30 for Students, Parents and/or Guardians and Personal Assistants; conference fees are \$20 to attend on either Monday or Tuesday (October 27 or October 28) for the same registrants.

Full conference registration fees are \$175 for Professionals such as Counselors, Teachers, Social Workers, Nurses, etc.; conference fees are \$90 to attend on either Monday or Tuesday (October 27 or October 28) for the same registrants. For those needing continuing education credits, a booth will be available at the hotel. For more information, e-mail [info@illinoistransitionconference.org](mailto:info@illinoistransitionconference.org).

Scholarships or Financial Assistance for parents and students are available through the Arc of Illinois and the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities Consumer Involvement Program. Stipends offered enable people with developmental disabilities and their family members to attend this conference. Application forms must be completed and sent to the Arc of Illinois with a copy of the conference brochure and completed registration form 30 days prior to the date of the conference. Stipends can be used to pay for the registration fees, hotel, meals, personal assistant and travel. Those needing financial assistance can call the Arc of Illinois at 815-464-1832. To learn more, visit [www.thearcofil.org/consumer-stipend-project](http://www.thearcofil.org/consumer-stipend-project).

Hotel rates are \$70 for conference participants for a single/double room. These rates are available until October 4, 2014. To make reservations, you must call the hotel at 217-529-7777. The hotel is located off of I-55 and I-72, Exit 94.

### FREE AMPLIFIED PHONES FROM THE ILLINOIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS CORPORATION (ITAC)

Illinois law requires all landline and most Cable and VoIP phone companies to provide telephone access for people who are Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, Deaf, Deaf-Blind or Speech Disabled. ITAC is the not-for-profit corporation established to provide a Free Equipment Program and Illinois Relay on behalf of these phone companies. To qualify, you must be a legal resident of Illinois, have a working landline phone in your home and have your application signed by a medical professional stating you or someone in your home is unable to use a standard phone. For more information, visit [www.itactty.org](http://www.itactty.org) or call Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty to receive an application.



SPRINGFIELD CENTER FOR  
Independent Living

330 S. Grand Ave. West  
Springfield, IL 62704  
(217)523-2587 v/tty  
(800)447-4221  
[www.scil.org](http://www.scil.org)

To reduce costs, SCIL would like to send all newsletters via e-mail. Please e-mail me at [cthorge@scil.org](mailto:cthorge@scil.org) if you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail.



Inside this Newsletter:

- Support Groups
- Equip for Equality Training Institute on Writing Measurable Goals
- Websites about School Climate and Fair Discipline
- Back to Work: A Job Search Learning Series
- Illinois Statewide Transition Conference
- Free Amplified Phones from ITAC

If you have any questions or need this newsletter in an alternative format - Braille, large print, or audio-cassette - please call Carolyn at 523-2587 v/tty.

SCIL provides the following services:

Independent Living Skills Training  
Personal Assistant Services  
Volunteer Opportunities  
Information & Referral  
Employment Resources  
Reintegration Services  
Access Coordination  
Youth Transition  
Support Groups  
Peer Counseling  
& Advocacy

SCIL does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of disability, race, age, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran status.