

Using a Community Conversation to Build Momentum in Transition Programs

Samantha Woodbeck, Genesee Intermediate School District
Sarah Winslow, Project SEARCH



Sweet Stories

Snickers

A successful student story in the realm of transition planning

Skittles

Funny or awesome story for a student transition activity or work experience

M & Ms

What does career exploration mean to you?

Starbursts

What do you wish you had more knowledge about in the area of transition?

Milky Way

Name one resource that MRS provides.

Reese's PB Cup

Share your favorite “ah-ha” moment in the realm of transition services.



Introductions



Samantha Woodbeck

Genesee Intermediate
School District

Transition Coordinator/
Teacher Consultant

Who's Here?



Sarah Winslow

Project SEARCH

Presentation Outcomes



Explore

Community
Conversation Model to
build buy-in from
stakeholders



Plan

Areas you can use the
format to build
momentum in transition
programs



Action

Create next steps for
your school/district

Agenda

01

**Community
Conversation
Overview**

02

**Using Community
Conversations to
Build Momentum**

03

Plan and Action

04

Tips and Questions

01

Community Conversation Overview



What is a Community Conversation?



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Before we move forward, let's see where we start...

[Coffee, Conversation, and Community Change on Vimeo](#)

What is a Community Conversation?



“Community Conversations is one strategy that has been used to discover, support, and disseminate creative and promising approaches for supporting students with disabilities to participate more fully and naturally in school, work, and community activities, including the same relationships, work, and community experiences as their peers.”

“Community Conversations is an *organizational tool that promotes a stage for dialogue*. By drawing out the best ideas of parents, educators, service providers, community leaders, employers, and ordinary citizens, communities can discover they already have the capacity to open doors for real change in this area.”

Previously, Community Conversations were apart of RCN Contracts for several years.

What is a Community Conversation?



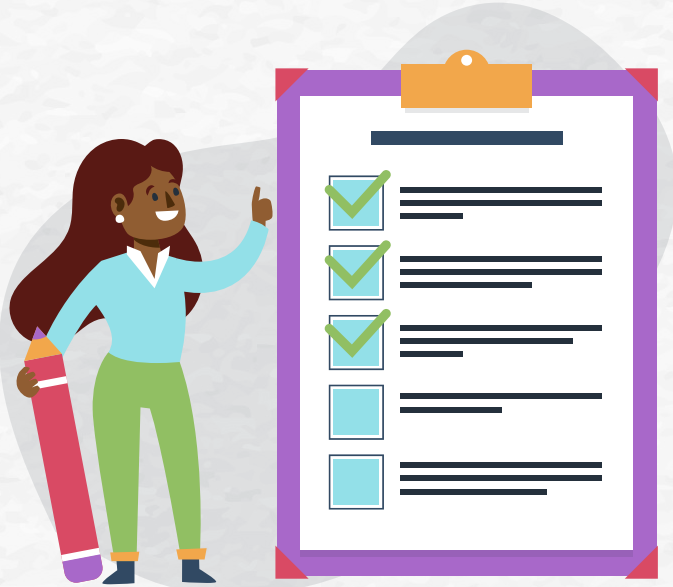
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www.menti.com

START
Flyer

START
Info
Sheet

START
Toolkit



02

Using Community Conversations to Build Momentum

Use of Community Conversations



**Creation of
Project
SEARCH Site**

November 2022



**Mini
Conversation:
Building
Relationships
with Directors
and MRS/WIOA**

August 2023



**Mini
Conversation:
County Wide
Transition
Committee**

November 2023

Creation of Project SEARCH



Community Conversation Planning Checklist

Task	Action Plan	Completed?
Identify your Why? - To secure two sites for Project SEARCH for 2023-2024 school year - To allow Genesee county students more transition opportunities. - To gain community support and awareness of Project SEARCH and employment needs of individuals with disabilities		
Identify your Planning Committee - Administration - Local Districts - PAC Member - Project CHOICE Teacher - Transition Center - Parent - Chamber of Commerce Liaison	- Ask Steve for PAC Member- Jessica - Jan- ask Foren - Chamber- Beau - Project CHOICE- Jessica/Sam - Locals	
Save the Date/Invite. RSVP for assigning tables	Beau	
Establish Budget for event - Money for food/budget - Decorations: art work, frames	Jan/Jessica	
Establish Planning Committee meeting dates - November 8, 2022 - November 14, 2022	Team	
Determine focus of your Community Conversation		
Introduce Planning Committee to Cafe approach and what a Community Conversation is https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/6468422a-ED08-43F0-F795C-B90E364668E/community_conversation_guide.pdf	Team view on your own	
Brainstorm and select a venue - Determine date & time - Consider accessibility - Ask about food/catering options		
Community Mapping – brainstorm participants to invite - Businesses - Bishop Airport - U of M Flint - Jan check with Robert - Mott- Jan check with Robert - Genesys Athletic Club - Hospitals- Genesys, Hurley, McLaren - Huntington Bank - Al Serra - Genesee County Government - GM - MTA		

Action Plan for Invite Distribution

- Consider having students deliver personally to the locations next week 11/14
- Attempt to hand directly to the Human Resources or owner/CE

Businesses	Name	Date
Bishop Airport	CA PC	Done 11/21
U of M Flint - Jan check with Robert	Jan check with Robert	
Mott- Jan check with Robert	Jan check with Robert	
Genesys Athletic Club	TC	Done 11/16 PH
Genesys	TC	Email sent 11/28 PH
Hurley	CA PC	Done 11/21

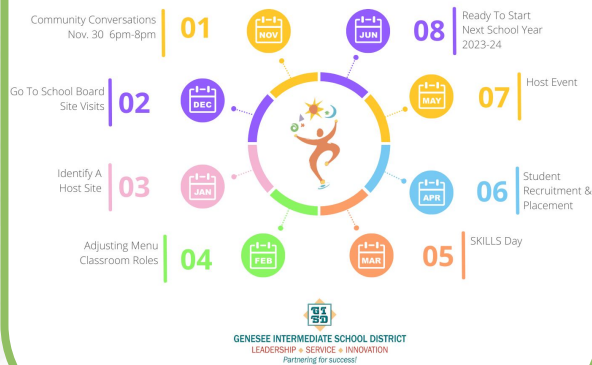
McLaren	TC Worksite	Done
Huntington Bank		
Al Serra	TC	Email sent 11/28 F
Genesee County Government		Email sent 11/28 F
GM	TC	Email sent 11/28 F
MTA		Email sent 11/28 F
Creative Foam Corporation	TC	Email sent 11/28 F
Riverfront Conference Center		
Huntington Bank		
Northgate	CA PC	Done 11/21
Consumers Energy		
Bavarian Inn	Clio PC	
FIA/Sloan/Whiting	CA PC	Done 11/21 (Sloan wasn't open)
Biggby	Sam	Email sent to TDN forward
Community Threads	TC Worksite	11/15 Done
IHOP	TC Worksite	11/15 Done

Red Lobster	TC Worksite	Done
Menards	Clio PC	
Home Depot	CA PC	Done 11/21
Chambers and all WIOA Businesses - Carson Chamber - Flint Chamber - Flint & Genesee Chamber - Flushing Chamber - Grand Blanc Chamber - Monroe Chamber - Spartan Creek Chamber - Franklin Chamber - Genesys Athletic Club - Fern Co./SPARK Program - Midwest Community College - MTA - City Of Flint	Beau	11/17/2022
Community Organizations	Name	Date
GHS	Sam email	11/15 CWTC
MRS	Sam email	11/15 CWTC
TDN	Sam email	Sent 11/17
New Horizons	Sam email	Sent 11/17
Dorian	Sam email	Sent 11/17
Family	Name	Date
Foren Family	Jan/Heather/Becky	
PAC Members	Steve Polega	
LEA/GS/D	Name	Date
Local Districts	Jan/Jessica	
Project CHOICE HS	Jessica	
Transition Center	Jan	11/17 sent email
CWTC	Sam	11/15



Community Conversation Format:

Project SEARCH Timeline 2022-23



Part I: (how to initiate thinking)

- Purpose
- Data and current services (SPP-B14)
- Discussion Panel
- Project SEARCH 101

Part II: Conversation and Commitment

Must do's:

- Tug at the heart strings or make a compelling why
- Intermingle stakeholders with some sort of system
- Move from global to personal thinking

OUR CONVERSATION



Group 1



Gr



Question 1

Based on what you have discussed and heard today as well as what you already know, what is your vision for transition services and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in our county?

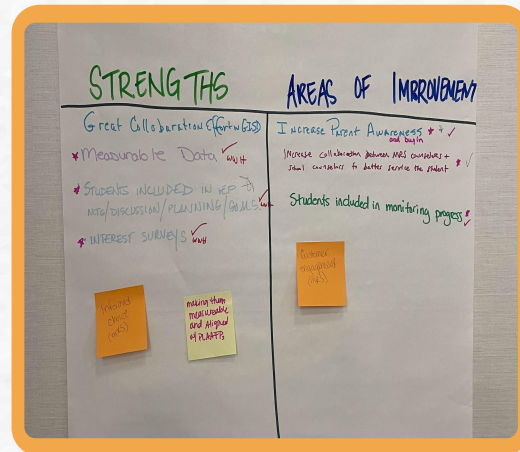
Question 2

What can I do personally to help our county bring this vision to light to increase work opportunities for individuals with disabilities?

Mini Conversation: Building Relationships with Directors and MRS/WIOA



Different Audience
Different Purpose
Same Format
Same Questions
Different Commitment



Building Relationships with Directors and MRS/WIOA

Part I:

- Purpose:

Our goal is to ***elevate awareness*** about transition-related services and employment opportunities available to individuals with disabilities in Genesee County. Additionally, we seek to ***foster greater collaboration among stakeholders***, with the aim of ***enhancing post-secondary outcomes*** and ***establishing a unified vision*** for the ***betterment of the global community***.

- Data:

SPP-B14, MRS Services by District, WIOA Participation by District

- Activity to Activate Thinking:

Four Corners Gallery Walk with NTACT Post School Success Indicators

Predictors/Outcomes	Education	Employment	Independent Living
• Career Awareness	Promising	Promising	
• Career Technical Education (was Vocational Education)	Research-based	Evidence-based	
• Community Experiences		Promising	
• Exit Exam Requirements/High School Diploma Status		Promising	
• Goal-Setting	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Inclusion in General Education	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Interagency Collaboration	Promising	Promising	
• Occupational Courses	Promising	Promising	
• Paid Employment/Work Experience	Research-based	Research-based	Promising
• Parent Expectations	Promising	Research-based	
• Parental Involvement		Promising	
• Program of Study	Research-based	Research-based	
• Psychological Empowerment (new)	Promising	Promising	Promising
• Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination	Research-based	Research-based	Promising
• Self-Care/Independent Living	Promising	Promising	Research-based
• Self-Realization (new)		Promising	Promising
• Social Skills	Promising	Promising	
• Student Support	Promising	Research-based	Promising
• Technology Skills (new)		Promising	
• Transition Program	Research-based	Promising	
• Travel Skills		Promising	
• Work Study		Research-based	
• Youth Autonomy/Decision-Making	Research-based	Research-based	Promising

Outcomes



- Connections with Special Education Directors, MRS Counselors, and WIOA Project Specialists
- Great ideas for new programs and services
- Creation of SMART goals that are driving work at the Directors' Transition Committee level
- Need for further training i.e. IEP 101
- Established commitment for support with the use of Transition Mapping and Community of Practice offered by GISD



TIP:
*Share out
results/recap
a week after
conversation*

Mini Conversation: County Wide Transition Committee

*Different Audience
Same Purpose
Same Format
Same Questions
Different Commitment*

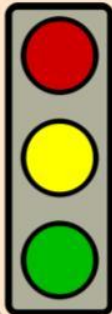


46 participants in attendance with representation from:

- 11 local districts
- 2 public school academies
- 2 GISD programs
- 7 representatives from MRS,
- 3 from GHS
- 3 different 3rd party vendors

Outcomes

COMMITMENT



What are you going to **stop** doing as a result of today's conversation?

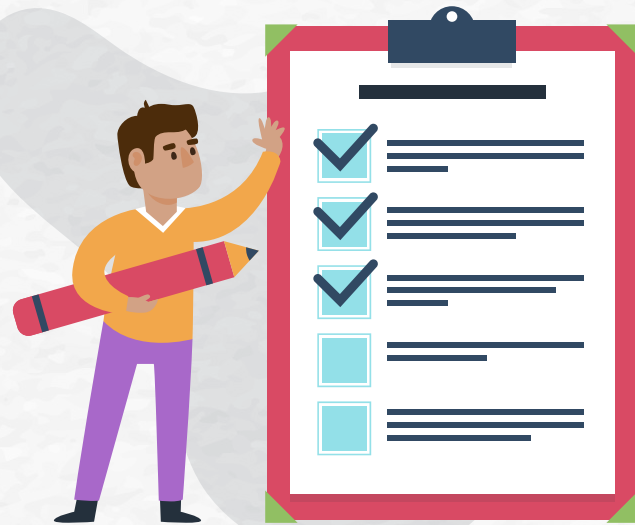
What are you going to **continue** doing as a result of today's conversation?

What are you going to **start** doing as a result of today's conversation?

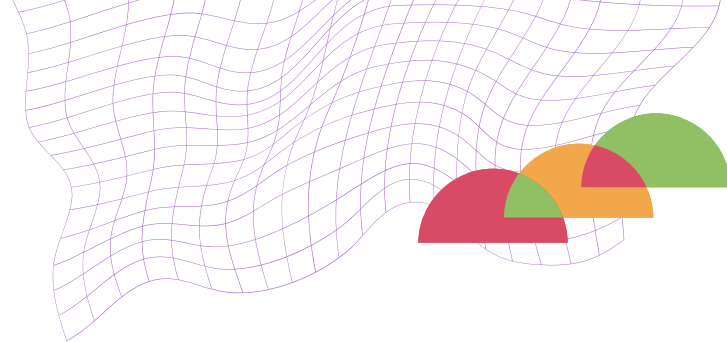
- New vendors participated and built connections at local districts
- Better understanding of current transition services
- Relationships “restored” with some local districts and MRS
- Results of Conversation
- Commitment
- SMORE Newsletter

03

Plan and Action



Plan and Action!



Group 1

How can you use this format in your current position?



Group 2

What is your personal goal moving forward in this work?



Commitment

Make one action item for next week...next month...next year



04

Tips and Questions



Questions of Format



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**Mini
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Exit Survey



Thanks!

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