

New Hampshire Transition Community of Practice

Engaging Partners

~

Improving Outcomes

FACT SHEET

THE MISSION OF THE NH TRANSITION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE is to make a difference in the lives of New Hampshire youth and support successful transitions to life after high school by fostering cooperation, collaboration and the development of best practices among cross stakeholder communities.

Communities of Practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

Etienne Wenger, June 2006

Characteristics of a NH Community of Practice:

- Non-hierarchical and voluntary
- Varied stakeholder representation
- Groups of people united over a shared passion, issue(s) or experiences
- Convene on a regular basis
- Focus on relationships and outcomes
- Organic in its development
- Always asking who is missing
- Open to varied perspectives
- Work collaboratively to share, plan and take action
- Finding ways to connect the work at the local, state, and national level

NH Transition Community of Practice (CoP)

In 2004, New Hampshire joined the National Transition Community of Practice led by the IDEA Partnership. This involvement has led to the formation of the New Hampshire Community of Practice Coordinating Group.

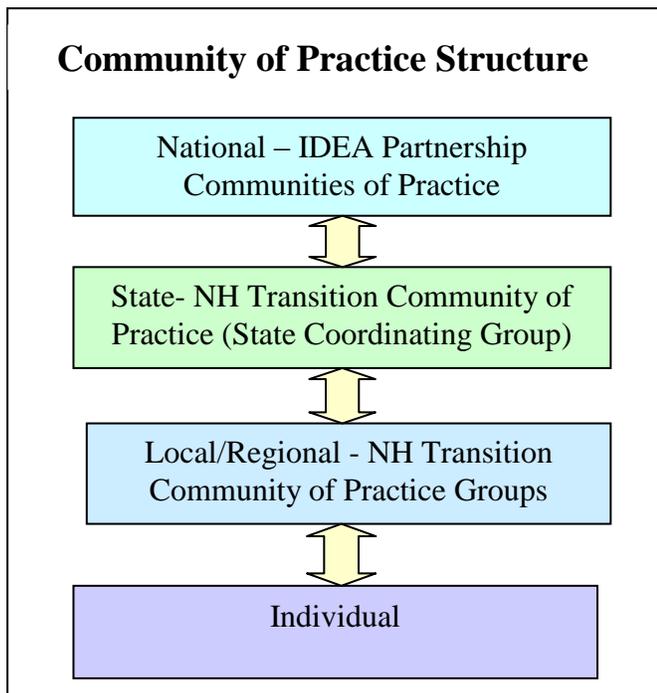
The Coordinating Group is currently made up of approximately 70 individuals from across state, local and community levels throughout New Hampshire who represent a wide array of experience and expertise. The Coordinating Group meets at least monthly to share resources, problem solve barriers and issues, and work together to improve transition services and supports for New Hampshire's youth by using the community of practice strategy.

New Hampshire Transition CoP Coordinating Group activities have included:

- Sponsoring an annual Transition Summit
- Development of/support local and regional communities of practice throughout the state
- Sharing resources/information toward the development of best practices, trainings, toolkits, etc.
- Discussion of transition services and support issues and barriers and ways to impact change

To join the New Hampshire Transition CoP State Coordinating Group send email to nhtransitionstatecop@gmail.com indicating you would like to join!

Community of Practice Structure



Advantages of Working as a Community of Practice

- Broader communication & dissemination
- Ability to look more deeply at complex issues
- Access to information about real world implementation
- Better feedback on emerging ideas
- Connections to stakeholders with influence
- Alliance with the intended beneficiaries of state policy
- Increased likelihood of sustainable solutions
- Synergy across levels of implementation
- Work smarter not harder
- Turning policy to practice

How can you become involved in the Transition Community of Practice?

- Join an existing regional/local transition community of practice group:

Southwest (MCST): Betsy Street, Keene State College, bstreet@keene.edu

Greater Seacoast: Heidi Wyman, Strafford Learning Center, hwyman@slc.k12.nh.us

South Central NH: Dawn Breault, Alvirne High School, dbreault@sau81.org.

Manchester: Mariellen MacKay, Moore Center, Mariellen.MacKay@moorecenter.org

- Start a Transition COP practice group in your part of the state! Please email a request to nhtransitionstatecop@gmail.com.

Interested in helping? Join the New Hampshire Transition CoP State Coordinating Group send an email to nhtransitionstatecop@gmail.com with your contact information!

In 2015-2016, the NH Transition COP Coordinating Group will focus on the following priority areas:

- ❖ Promoting best practices in the area of transition to life after high school
- ❖ Promoting family & youth engagement/advocacy
- ❖ Promote collaboration with other organizations and community groups
- ❖ Formalizing communication “vehicles” for our local, state and national CoP work
- ❖ Planning and implementing Summit IX
- ❖ Continuing to evaluate the COP strategy at the local and state level