**2019 NDE Transition Conference**

**VR/DD Collaboration for Exiting Students**

Nebraska VR and Division of Developmental Disabilities coordinate to ensure exiting students have been referred and connected to both agencies. VR Wait List issues are anticipated. This session will describe how to get students connected to both VR and DD and navigate other adult agencies.

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**Agency websites:**

[**http://www.vr.nebraska.gov/**](http://www.vr.nebraska.gov/)

[**http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx**](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx)

**Helpful Q & A**

**1. Q: What is the best way to describe VR & DD to families so they understand?**

A: VR- Federal/State partnership that helps Nebraskans with disabilities prepare for, find and keep jobs. 15% of the program’s budget is dedicated to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services to students with disabilities. VR is a short-term program.

DD- Federal/State partnership under the Medicaid Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) waiver to assist eligible Nebraskans with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live, work and recreate in their community to greatest extent possible.

Nebraska has four Medicaid HCBS waivers: The Aged and Disabled waiver, the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver, the Comprehensive Development Disabilities waiver, and the Developmental Disabilities Adult Day waiver. Each serves different populations, but a person can only be on one waiver at a time.

* See *DD Services Eligibility* and *ACCESS Nebraska* handouts

**2. Q: To which agency do I refer students with a vision impairment to receive Pre-**

 **Employment Transition Services (PreETS), VR or the Nebraska Commission for**

 **the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI)?**

A: Make an initial referral to NCBVI. If the student does not meet eligibility requirements, refer to VR for PreETS services.

**3. Q: At what age should parents complete an application for DD services for a child?**

A: A parent can apply for DD services for their child anytime, but Medicaid HCBS waiver services cannot start until he/she reaches the age of 21 and is at the end of a school year. When a child is found eligible at a young age, his/her eligibility will be verified at the ages of 9 and 18, as a person’s disability is hard to determine when a child is young.

**4. Q: How can schools support families in the application process for DD?**

A: The best way to apply for services is online at ACCESSNebraska. A paper application can also be sent in. This information can be found at the DHHS link listed above. Schools can also refer parents to PTI Nebraska.

* See *ACCESS Nebraska* handout

**5. Q: Who do schools direct parents to contact at DD if they have applied and were**

**denied?**

A: Anyone who applies for DD services will receive a letter from DHHS. This letter is called a Notice of Decision. When someone is denied services, he/she has the right to appeal the decision. Appeal information is included the letter.

* See *Helpful Contacts* handout

**6. Q: What if the student is not a U.S. citizen or citizenship is uncertain?**

A: VR- Available to students with disabilities who are eligible, or potentially eligible, for VR services. If an application is made to the VR program, staff will verify lawful presence and authorization to work prior to determining eligibility.

DD- To be eligible for Nebraska DD services, a person must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States, a legal resident of Nebraska or a qualified alien under the federal immigration and Nationality Act and be lawfully present in the United States. When application is made for the DD program, citizenship is verified by DHHS.

**7. Q: A student decides to exit school at age 18, 19 or 20. Do they need to apply for**

**DD services prior to age 21 OR prior to exit from school to be considered for**

**the fourth funding category?**

A: Regardless of whether a student exits school at age 18, 19 or 20, the person must apply for, and be found eligible, prior to his/her 21st birthday to be considered for the fourth funding category.

* See *Funding to Transition from Educational Services to Medicaid HCBS Developmental Disabilities Day Waiver Services* brochure

**8. Q: What DD services can be used before age 21?**

A: When a person who is under the age of 21, but is on the Medicaid HCBS DD Comprehensive waiver receiving residential services, the only day services available are respite or homemaker services. When school has shortened days, the school is still responsible for services for the remaining school hours. Habilitative Community Integration can be used for children during summer and school breaks when schools services are not available.

**9. Q: What happens to DD eligible students awaiting VR service and on the wait list**

**after exiting school?**

A: VR- VR currently has a wait list. Applicants are being removed from the wait list by date of application when funding becomes available.

DD- For people receiving Medicaid HCBS waiver services, DD expects anyone 18-65 years old and interested in competitive integrated employment to seek services from Nebraska VR or NCBVI. When a person is eligible for VR services, he/she is unable to access waiver funds for supported employment. Medicaid HCBS waiver funds can only be used for long term supports once the team agrees the VR case will be closed.

* See *VR Pyramid* handout

**10. Q: How can the IEP team support the goal of competitive integrated**

**employment?**

A: Raise expectations for ALL students! There is no longer a school to sheltered workshop (sub-minimum wage) pipeline. When Nebraska VR and schools partner, greater opportunities for exposure and exploration with employment can be achieved in the community through job shadows, business tours, structured work-based learning experiences and other individualized arrangements to meet each student’s needs. All PreETS students referred to Nebraska VR are encouraged to apply for VR Services at the appropriate time.

* See *Section 511 Decision Tree* handout

**11. Q: What are the key differences between DD and A&D waiver? Can services from**

**either waiver be used together?**

A: No, a DD waiver and the A&D waiver cannot be used together. The Aged and Disabled waiver, which Medicaid and Long-Term Care oversees, provides options for services and supports in the community, rather than in a nursing facility to an aged person and a person of any age with a disability. The person must have physical and health needs requiring services such as those provided in a nursing facility. This waiver does not include residential or supported employment services.

The DD Comprehensive and DD Adult Day waivers are waivers that the Division of Developmental Disabilities oversees.

* The Adult Day waiver is for a person 21 years old or older who has an intellectual or developmental disabilities to work, socialize and be an active member of their community to fullest extent as possible.
* The Comprehensive waiver is for a person of any age with intellectual or developmental disabilities to reside, work, socialize and be an active member of their community to the fullest extent as possible.

**Reaching Parents & Guardians**:

*Parent teacher conferences*

*MDT/IEP/TR planning meetings*

*Every other month agency presentations*

*Provider nights or parent involvement nights- invite agencies who help students transition*

*School Facebook pages/Facebook live streaming*

*School email Listserv to parents*

*PTI Nebraska or other advocacy resources*

*Websites- school, ESU, VR- utilize calendar of events page*

*Subscribe to the Division of Developmental Disabilities website*

**DD Reference Documents (Share with Families)**

**Instruction for applying for DD service through ACCESSNebraska**:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/Applying%20for%20DD%20Services%20Online.pdf>

**DD Service Eligibility Brochure**

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/Eligibility%20for%20DD%20Services.pdf>

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/Eligibility%20for%20DD%20Services%20Spanish.pdf>

**DD Services Funding to Transition from Educational Services to Medicaid HCBS DD Waiver Services**

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/DD%20Services%204th%20Priority.pdf>

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/DD%20Services%204th%20Priority%20Spanish.pdf>

**Helpful Contacts for Eligibility and Services**

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/Helpful%20Contacts.pdf>

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/DD%20Documents/Helpful%20Contacts%20Spanish.pdf>

**Linkage to other adult agencies and resources (Can be added as transition activities to the IEP or Summary of Performance document).**

Alternatives to Guardianship- [*http://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/9000016361670/alternatives-to-guardianship/*](http://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/9000016361670/alternatives-to-guardianship/)

Bridges to Independence (for Youth in foster care) [*http://dhhs.ne.gov/children\_family\_services/BridgeToIndependence/Pages/About.aspx*](http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/BridgeToIndependence/Pages/About.aspx)

*Disability Rights Nebraska-* [*https://www.disabilityrightsnebraska.org/*](https://www.disabilityrightsnebraska.org/)

*Guardianship Resource for Families (UNL extension)* [*http://child.unl.edu/guardianship*](http://child.unl.edu/guardianship)

*Medicaid-* [*http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/medicaid\_index.aspx*](http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/medicaid_index.aspx)

*Munroe-Meyer Institute-* [*https://www.unmc.edu/mmi/*](https://www.unmc.edu/mmi/)

*Nebraska Youth Leadership Council-* [*http://nylc.nebraska.gov/NYLC/Welcome.html*](http://nylc.nebraska.gov/NYLC/Welcome.html)

*People First Nebraska-* [*http://www.peoplefirstnebraska.com*](http://www.peoplefirstnebraska.com/)

*PTI Nebraska-* [*http://pti-nebraska.org/*](http://pti-nebraska.org/)

*Special Olympics-* [*http://www.sone.org/programs/schoolbasedprograms/*](http://www.sone.org/programs/schoolbasedprograms/)

*See VR’s Information and Referral to Other Programs handout for ideas*