

Transitioning Into Adolescent and Adult Services: *Challenges and Strategies*

BRYAN BLAIR, MS, LABA, BCBA
Endicott College
Cape Abilities

GLENN LOOMIS
Director of Day Services
Cape Abilities

TERMS AND JARGON

- **ABA** Applied Behavior Analysis
- **BCBA** Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- **LABA** Licensed Applied Behavior Analyst (MA)
- **PBS** Positive Behavior Support
- **DDS** MA Department of Developmental Services
- **688** “Turning 22” transition program

TERMS AND JARGON

- **MRC** MA Rehabilitation Commission
- **DMH** MA Department of Mental Health
- **DESE** MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **ARICA** An Act Relative to Insurance Coverage for Autism
- **Autism Omnibus Legislation**
- **Person Centered Planning**

FREQUENTLIY ASKED QUESTIONS

- When should I start asking questions?
- How does the school-based transition process work?
- Day Hab? CBDS? Voc? PETS? What do those mean?
- What types of residential models are there?
- Are the funding differences really that significant?
- How do the new DDS Eligibility regulations affect me?
- What am I responsible for?
- How do I “Shop for Services”?

WHEN SHOULD I START ASKING QUESTIONS?

Yesterday! (Seriously, never too early!)

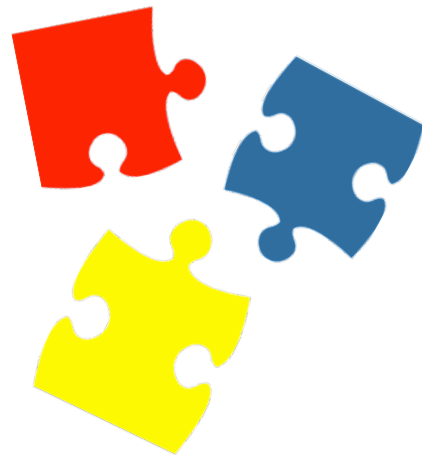
Today

Tomorrow

Ongoing

Many answers are out there (sort of...)

Unanswerable questions due to changing support model



HOW DOES THE SCHOOL-BASED TRANSITION PROCESS WORK?

IEP team should have a **Transition Coordinator**

DDS will become involved at **14**

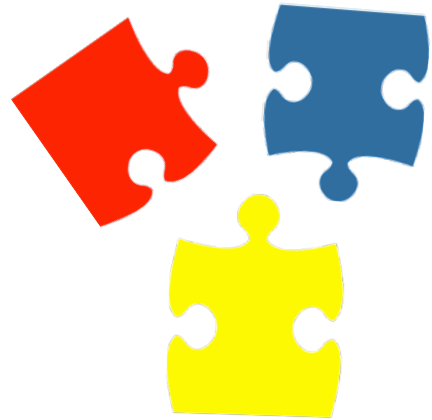
Begin to target life skills

Identify key players of transition team

Ensure compliance from district and DDS

Begin collaboration with **DDS (688 coordinator)**

Service coordinator - **VIP!!!**



DAY HAB? CBDS? VOC? PETS? WHAT DO THOSE MEAN?

Day Habilitation - Life Skills

Community Based Day Supports

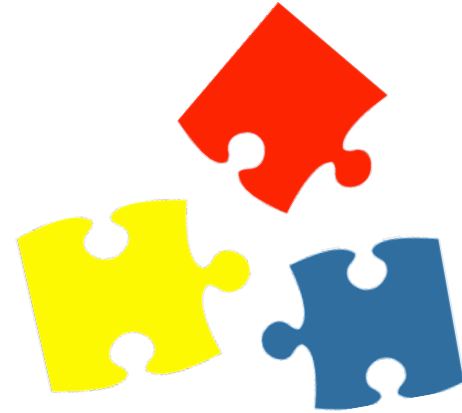
Vocational

Pre-Employment Transition Services (New)

Many agencies offer some or all of these

What fits your child?

What does your child want?



WHAT TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL MODELS ARE THERE?

Independent Living Supports

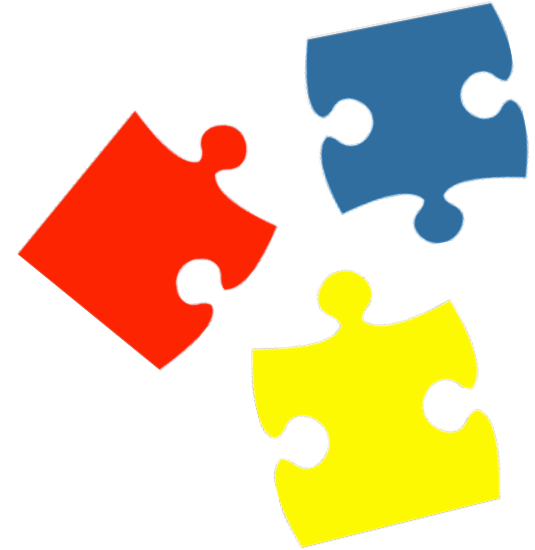
Adult Foster Care (AFC)

Shared Living

24/7 Residential

Family Supports

Individualized Home Supports



Need to determine the right fit

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ARE THE FUNDING DIFFERENCES REALLY THAT SIGNIFICANT?

Funding IS **much less** for **adult services**

Masshealth does not cover ABA services after 18

Entitlement vs. non-entitlement

Fading supports during school is crucial (e.g., 1:1)

Teaching leisure and independent skills is important

Communication, coping, waiting, denied access

HOW DO THE NEW DDS ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS AFFECT ME?

Autism Omnibus Bill

Functional skills vs intelligence/performance

Different Agencies (DDS, DMH, MRC)

Services evolving - dynamic

WHAT AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR?

Responsibilities of:

Parents

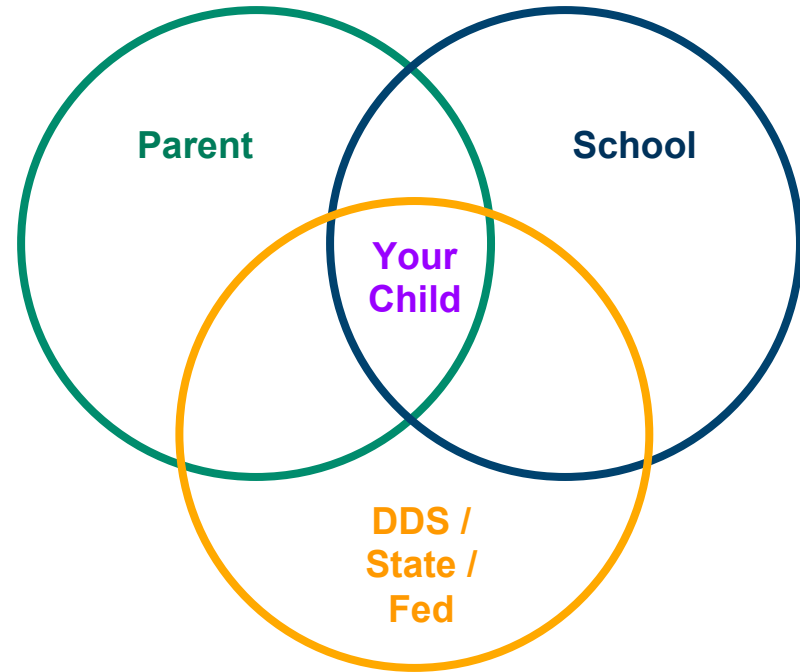
Schools

DDS

Other Agencies

Collaboration is crucial

Everyone makes mistakes



HOW DO I “SHOP FOR SERVICES”?

Referral process

Every agency has its own **admission** process

Visit with multiple agencies

Ask **specific questions** about resources, models

Individualized services

Autism?

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