



Ionia County Parent Advisory Committee



Minutes

January 30, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM
Ionia County ISD

- ❖ Present: Jessica Crandell, Rachel Gehrcke, Vickie Hair, Sara Possehn
- ❖ Absent: Caroline Debaba, Candace Hall, Stephanie Herbstreith, Brian Kelley,

Tour of the Transition Service Training Centers

Transition Central:

Transitions Central is located at 601 E. Washington Street in Ionia.

This training site is designed to help provide the necessary support and training for adult learners with mild disabilities who are not quite ready to meet the demands of life after high school. It is intended to help make the needed connections with post school adult agencies, programs, supports, and activities that will make our adult learners transition into life after school easier and more meaningful. Transition Central concentrates its work in the three areas of Transition:

Employment: Adult learners will explore employment options and local employment supports. This includes Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Community Mental Health, and Goodwill. Skills include how to obtain and maintain employment, including:

- Entrepreneurship
- Volunteerism
- Independent and supported work settings.

Community Involvement: Participants have the opportunity to explore different recreation and leisure activities available in their communities and how to make necessary connections. This will also be a time for adult learners to practice safety, transportation, money, and social skills in local surroundings.

- Home Living: Adult learners will work on learning life skills such as the following:
 - Cooking
 - Laundry
 - Housekeeping
 - Phone Skills
 - Time Management
 - Money Skills
 - Finding Housing



Ionia County Parent Advisory Committee



Criteria: This training site services adult learners who have completed their local high school requirements but need additional support to develop competitive work, social and life skills. They must meet the following criterion:

1. Must be a minimum of 18 years of age upon entrance to the training site;
2. Will be evaluated annually and expected to reach their goals within two years;
3. Must have completed their high school academic requirements;
4. Must show evidence that they will be safe and secure within the community, without educational staff present; **and**
5. Must show evidence of the potential for competitive employment, including a desire to work.

Referral Process: Referrals are to be initiated at the local district level. Please adhere to the following steps:

1. Contact your local Employment Training Specialist (ETS). The ETS will interview the current high school student and complete a transition assessment (if one has not already been completed) then contact Mark Sly, Supervisor (msly@ioniaisd.org)
2. Upon receipt of the transition assessment, the student and family if interested, will be scheduled for a visit to Transition Central.
3. Transition staff will then review the information and talk with the local Transition Coordinator and caseload teacher about the options available to the student.
4. Typically adult learners attend for up to two years but may decide, upon reaching their specific goals, to exit the training site sooner.

Stepping Forward:

Stepping Forward is also located at 601 E. Washington Street in Ionia. This training site is designed to help provide the necessary support and training for adult learners with moderate disabilities focusing on the following life skill areas:

Daily living skills: cooking, cleaning, shopping, menu planning, daily exercise, safety, and budgeting money;

Community participation and connections with local resources: MRS, The Right Door, Disability Advocates of Kent County, Housing options, etc.). The adult learners also research and take part in low cost and free activities in the towns in the communities they reside.

Employment skills: adult learners create their resumes and develop job skills through several Work Based Learning (WBL) sites. They also work (volunteer) at job sites 4 days/week.



Ionia County Parent Advisory Committee



Soft (social) skills: positive attitude, initiative, work ethic, responsibility, advocating for self, and helping each other reach goals.

Independent Living Center:

Located near downtown Ionia, the Independent Living Center is more commonly known as “the House.” This transition training site opened its doors on January 28th, 1991 to provide a functional learning environment for Moderately Cognitively Impaired post-secondary adult learners.

Adult learners attending the House transition site follow, as much as possible, the Ionia Public School calendar. Based on IEP goals, they may attend 1-5 days a week, and when appropriate, do activities that are held past the regular school day. They are not required to operate during the summer months.

Looking at the educational needs of the adult learners, determines the amount of time they attend the House in a week, and they may exit prior to their 26th birthday if they have achieved their goals.

The House has worked with a variety of adult learners who benefit from the functional learning environment in the transition areas of Home Living, Community, Recreational/Leisure, and Vocational training.

Home Living Area: Adult learners are responsible for planning, shopping for and preparing simple meals. They participate in all aspects of household cleaning including laundry.

Vocational Programming: Adult learners are encouraged to try several work settings to find the one they like and that matches their skill set, including sites within their own community. Many students elect to have volunteer jobs after graduation.

Community Living: This area provides adult learners access to their community to work on specific skills. Utilizing community sites such as the post office, library, bank, grocery store, restaurants, etc., provide a variety of different learning establishments that allow the adult learners to work on cognitive, social, communication, and safety skills.

Leisure & Well-Being: Adult learners work on social skills, and develop recreation and leisure activities (e.g., playing games, using the computer, crafts). The adult learners access sites in their local communities and within the Grand Rapids and Lansing areas.

Next Meeting: March 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the ISD: Awards Selection