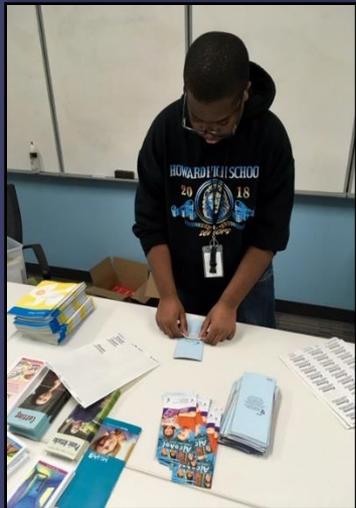


Howard County Commission for Transitioning Students with Disabilities

Beth Benevides (parent) and
Dawson Robertson (HCPSS transition program lead)
Co-Chairs

Commission Purpose

To make recommendations to establish an effective, efficient, and comprehensive delivery of services that will most successfully meet the transition needs of Howard County students with disabilities as they transition from high school to postsecondary education, employment, and adult life.



It is the commission's belief that students and young adults with disabilities are most successful when given opportunities to be independent, productive, integrated, and fully included members of the community.

Commission Goals

- To ensure every student has access to career and research development courses, as well as college and career planning tools
- To provide students receiving a certificate greater access to community-based work experiences prior to exiting
- To ensure active engagement with students and families in the transition from high school to adult services (beginning at 14!)

Commission Focus

- To engage and educate businesses in the county on the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and the need for job opportunities for transitioning students
- To prioritize hiring practices to include people with disabilities

Advocacy for transitioning students

- “Enclave Program” replaced by Career and Community Exploration Program
- Increased student referrals to Maryland Division of Rehabilitative Services
- Expanded student participation in CRD courses
- Promotion of HCC’s Project Access to high school students
- Developed Project SEARCH High School Transition Program

Advocacy for transitioning students

- Increased county Pre-Employment Transition Services (DORS)
- Promoted High School Pre-Employment Program Options
- Created Transition Journey: Parent to Parent Monthly Meetings
- Created Transition and Resource Fair
- Supported Digital Portfolio Pilot Program

Advocacy for transitioning students

- Expanded Adult Social Programs by HC Rec and Parks
- Offered trainings on Person-Centered Planning
- Engaged with Howard County Chamber of Commerce
- Promoted National Disability Employment Awareness Month throughout county government

Commission membership

- HCPSS staff
- Howard County Government staff
 - Department of Community Resources and Services
 - ADA Office
 - Office of Human Resources
 - Office of Workforce Development
 - Office of Human Rights
 - Department of Recreation and Parks
 - Howard Community College Disability Services & Project Access
- Maryland Department of Rehabilitative Services

Commission membership--appointed

- Parent representatives
- Individuals with a disabilities
- Howard County business community
- Service Coordination (DDA)
- Adult Service Providers
- Center for Independent Living

Membership Application Information



HOWARD COUNTY
AUTISM SOCIETY

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