



# Resources for Improving Transition Outcomes: Transition Outcomes Peer Learning Community

The Transition Outcomes PLC is made up of state deaf-blind project personnel, Helen Keller National Center staff, and National Family Association for Deaf-Blind representatives. The PLC focuses on increasing transition outcomes for students who are deaf-blind and have intensive support needs through state systems exploration and activities.

The PLC has hosted several guest speakers who shared information about

- Raising expectations of access to competitive integrated employment and a rich, full life after high school for students with the most significant disabilities
- Their state's Employment First activities
- Efforts by vocational rehabilitation and state services for the blind to increase the expectation of community employment for all job seekers and build capacity to provide customized employment and pre-employment transition services to students with long term support needs
- How families can access and individualize long-term supports
- Interagency collaboration and funding to help students with long-term support needs participate in individualized work experiences and transition to competitive integrated employment

## **RECORDED AND CAPTIONED PRESENTATIONS**

### **December 17, 2020 Introduction to Customized Employment**

Presenter: Ellen Condon, Transition Consultant, NCDB

[Recording Link](#)

### **January 21, 2021 Introduction to Customized Employment**

Presented by the Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind

Presenters: Margie Webb, Customized Employment Specialist, MN VR; Josh Dean, Customized Employment and Small Business Development Specialist, MN VR; Dacia VanAlstine, Business Services and Employment Program Specialist, MN SSB

[Recording Link](#)

### **February 25, 2021 Minnesota and Colorado Efforts to Increase Expectations of Employment for All Youth**

Presenters: Chris McVey, Director of Strategic Innovations, MN VR Department of Employment and Economic Development; Alyssa Klein, MN VR Transition and Pre-ETS Coordinator; Sheila Koenig, MN State Services for the Blind Pre-ETS Coordinator; Lindsey Jo Horowitch, Minnesota Department of Education Transition Coordinator; Jennifer Stewart, Owner, Breaking Expectations LLC, Contractor with the Colorado Office of Employment First

[Recording Link](#)

### **March 25, 2021 Families' Experiences with Connecting to Developmental Disabilities Services for their Young Adult Children who are Deaf-Blind and have Long Term Support Needs**

Presenters: Molly Black, Alex's mom, Family Engagement Consultant with the PA Deaf-Blind Project; Djenne-amal Morris, Malik's mom, Statewide Family Outreach Coordinator for the Statewide Outreach Center at Texas School for the Deaf and President of the board of directors of Hands & Voices Headquarters

[Recording Link](#)

### **April 22, 2021 What Does It Take to Exit Post-High School Services Employed?**

Presenters: Tricia Jones-Parkin, UT School-to-Work Initiative and Customized Employment Training and Technical Assistance Program Coordinator, Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities; Kelie Hess, Utah School-to-Work Project Coordinator, Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities; Aubrey Snyder, Training and Development Specialist, Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities

[Recording Link](#)

# SHARED RESOURCES

## Customized Employment Resources

- U.S. Department of Labor produced three short videos (4-8 minutes each) on customized employment
  - Customized Solutions: Creating Opportunities and Solutions
  - Customized Solutions: [Solutions for Youth](#) with Disabilities
  - Customized Solutions: [Solutions for Employers](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor Factsheet on Customized Employment](#)
- [Employment: From Competitive to Customized](#) by Michael Callahan, Marc Gold and Associates. This article explains customized employment and includes an excellent story of how a young woman who is deaf-blind was employed using this approach.
- [Customized Employment: Stories and Lessons from the Field](#), edited by Cary Griffin and Sherry Beamer
- Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC) Customized Employment Videos
  - [Customized Employment \(CE\) Orientation](#), webinar presented by Sean O'Brien (50 minutes)
  - [Customized Employment \(CE\): A WINTAC Special Project](#) (90 min)
  - The three states presenting are: MN, MI and CO. See below for timing of these states' information on the video.
    - Minnesota VR and State Services for the Blind; building their state capacity to provide CE to adults and students (28:20-50:00)
    - Michigan VR and Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (50:00-1:18:23)
    - Colorado VR (1:19:10-1:47:30)

## Employment First Resources

This resource provides background information about Employment First and provides links to Employment First policies by state. Does your state have any policies prioritizing community integrated employment for all persons with disabilities? Is your state an Employment First state? For information on Employment First and to find state specific information see <https://apse.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Employment-first-resource-list-April-2019.pdf>.

Website for the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) [Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Project](#) (EFSLMP). This was a five-year initiative coordinated by the ODEP. The focus of EFSLMP is to support states to increase competitive integrated employment for job seekers with disabilities through professional development for employment providers, revise statewide policies to encourage competitive integrated employment (CIE), and restructure rates to incentivize the provision of competitive integrated employment by community providers.

- [Two-Page Executive Summary of EFSLMP](#)
- [Employment First Colorado factsheet](#)
- [Colorado Office of Employment First](#)
- [Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Transition Innovations, Employment First](#)
- [Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Transition Innovations, Archived Webcast Information](#)

## Development Disabilities Services Resources

- [What are Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities?](#) University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration
- To find your state's developmental disabilities agency, visit [their website](#).
- [Fact Sheet: Summary of Key Provisions of the Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Settings Final Rule](#) (Jan. 10, 2014), by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- [“Waiting Lists May Be Eliminated For Disability Services Provided By Medicaid”](#) (March 22, 2021), by Michelle Diamant, *Disability Scoop* website. Proposed legislation to make home and community-based services available to all who are eligible.

**National Center on Deaf-Blindness, September 2021**

**[nationaldb.org](http://nationaldb.org)**

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