



## **PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Transition Task Force Hearing  
April 30, 2002**

**Washington Hilton  
International Ballroom West  
1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.**

### **Background**

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The requirements to specifically address transition issues were established in the 1990 IDEA reauthorization as a result of broad-based concern about the future of students with disabilities following their graduation or completion of high school. Follow-up studies on students conducted during the 1980's found that approximately 36% were dropping out of school, 82% were living at home with their families, 14% attended some form of post-secondary education or training, and about 45% were employed.

More recent data collected in the early to mid 1990's suggests a more positive trend with about 20% of students with disabilities attending post-secondary institutions, 59% being employed and fewer students dropping out of school.

In the interest of continuing these more positive trends, the following experts will discuss the current status of services for students with disabilities who are planning to transition and what needs to be improved to better prepare students with disabilities as they move from secondary to postsecondary and adult activities. Each expert will present his or her findings, perspectives, and recommendations to the Commission concerning specific areas of transition services.

### **Agenda**

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**8:00 a.m. Carl Suter, Council of State Administrators for Vocational Rehabilitation**

**Carl Suter** is Director of The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), an organization representing eighty-one state officials who are the chief executive officers for the public vocational rehabilitation agencies in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States.

**8:20 a.m. Q & A for Mr. Suter**

**8:40 a.m. Jane Everson, University Centers of Excellence at Louisiana and South Carolina**

**Dr. Jane Everson** has been involved in disability services for adolescents and adults for more than 20 years. Her program development and research interests include school-to-adult life transition, supported employment, homeownership, deafblindness, collaborative teaming, and person-centered planning.

**9:00 a.m. Q & A for Dr. Everson**

**9:20 a.m. Paul Wehman, Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Dr. Paul Wehman** is a Professor and Director of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports and Chairman of the Division of Rehabilitation Research at Virginia Commonwealth University. He pioneered the development of supported employment at VCU in the early 1980s and has been heavily involved in the use of supported employment with people who have severe disabilities.

**9:40 a.m. Q & A for Dr. Wehman**

**10:00 a.m. Break**

**10:15 a.m. Frank Rusch, University of Illinois**

**Dr. Frank Rusch** is a Professor of Special Education in the College of Education at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He established the Transition Research Institute at Illinois, and later the National Transition Alliance, which were funded by the U.S. Department of Education to improve transition services and outcomes.

**10:35 a.m. Q & A for Dr. Rusch**

**11:55 a.m. Lunch Break**

**1:00 p.m. Margo Izzo, the Ohio State University**

**Dr. Margo Izzo** is the Co-Project Director and Principal Investigator for the Ohio State University Partnership Grant. The Partnership Grant creates and maintains active partnerships among OSU departments, two-year community colleges, and collaborators at national, regional, and local levels. The primary objective of these partnerships is to enhance the postsecondary experience for students with disabilities, working for greater educational access and understanding of the accommodations process through knowledge and practice.

**1:20 p.m. Q & A for Dr. Izzo**

**1:40 p.m. Robert Stodden, University of Hawaii**

**Dr. Bob Stodden** is Director of the Center on Disability Studies and the National Center for the Study of Postsecondary Educational Supports and is a Professor of Special Education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Stodden has served as principal investigator/director of more than 100 research and training projects spanning the areas of secondary school transition, postsecondary education, and employment for youth with special learning and behavior needs.

**2:00 p.m. Q & A for Dr. Stodden**

**2:20 p.m. Andrea Sobel and Cathy Healy, Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center**

**Andrea Sobel** is a Foster Care Consultant and **Cathy Healy** is a Project Coordinator for The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) based in Springfield, Virginia. PEATC assists the families of children with disabilities through education, information and training. PEATC builds parent-professional partnerships to promote success in school and community life.

**2:40 p.m. Q & A for Ms. Sobel and Ms. Healy**

**3:00 p.m. Deborah Leuchovius, PACER Center**

**Deborah Leuchovius** is the National Coordinator of Technical Assistance on Transition and Vocational Rehabilitation (TATRA) at the Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) Center based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. PACER's mission is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

**3:20 p.m. Q & A for Ms. Leuchovius**

**3:40 p.m. Andrew Block, Director, JustChildren Project**

**Andy Block** is Director of the JustChildren Project, sponsored by the Charlottesville-Albemarle Legal Aid Society in Virginia. The JustChildren Project provides civil legal services and education to low-income at-risk children and their families. The staff helps clients and their families access education and social services and, when necessary, advocates on their behalf in court and at special education hearings, school discipline proceedings, and public benefit hearings.

**4:20 p.m. Q & A for Mr. Block**

**4:40 p.m. Public Comment on Transition Issues**

**5:40 p.m. Adjourn (Task Force Work Session follows adjournment)**