Improving Access to Transportation to Support the Transition of Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Strategies at Multiple Levels

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Webinar, July 2014

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Asst. VP, Education and Youth Transition
Easter Seals, Chicago, IL
Expected Outcomes

• Acquire practical strategies to integrate transportation content in instruction and services;

• Identify opportunities to connect with community transportation professionals to build transportation supports; and

• Learn about what schools and communities are doing to ensure that students with ID/DD have access to transportation to facilitate their participation in jobs, college, and community living.
Agenda...

- Description of projects
- Trends as a rationale for focusing on transportation
- Strategies and Examples
- Discussion - Questions
Learning Based On:

• Easter Seals Project ACTION, Federal Transit Administration
  - www.projectaction.org

• Strengthening Coordinated Transportation Partnerships, Administration on Community Living
  – Transitplanning4all.org

• National Center for Mobility Management
  – www.nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org
Easter Seals Project ACTION (ESPA)

- **Mission:** promote universal access to transportation for people with disabilities...
- Supports Transportation and the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA)
- Begun by Congress twenty three years ago to **build bridges** of understanding between the Transportation and Disability Community
- Cooperative Agreement funded by the *Federal Transit Administration* and Administered by Easter Seals
- Aligned with *Easter Seals* work to improve the lives of children, youth, and adults with disabilities
Four Functional Areas to Help Local Organizations Build Accessible Transportation Capacity

• **Training Events** – travel training, webinars, online training
• **Technical Assistance** – 800#, email, in-person coalition building events
• **Applied Research** – fund catalyst and gap filling programs to stimulate academic inquiry and leverage new product development
• **Outreach** – build awareness & create partnerships
Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living
The mission of this project, sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living is to demonstrate the value that inclusive processes can bring to transportation efforts.
A partnership of
Mobility Management

Mobility management is an approach to designing and delivering transportation services that starts and ends with the customer. It begins with a community vision in which the entire transportation network—public transit, private operators, cycling and walking, volunteer drivers, and others—works together with customers, planners, and stakeholders to deliver the transportation options that best meet the community’s needs.
NCMM Mission

The mission of the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) is to facilitate communities to adopt transportation strategies and mobility options that empower people to live independently and advance health, economic vitality, self-sufficiency, and community.
If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.

In Fierce Conversations, By Susan Scott
Legislation & Policy Across School and Community Reinforce a Focus on Inclusive Transportation

- Least Restrictive Environment
- Inclusion
- IDEA
- Access to the General Education Curriculum

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Higher Education Opportunity Act
- State Employment First Initiatives
- Olmstead Act
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
AAIDD seeks to enhance the capacity of disability professionals and to participate in the development of a fully inclusive society.

A good education program can be nothing less than a program which provides for every child according to his needs.

Meta L. Anderson, PhD, President, 1940-1941
The Power of Data

• Thirty-one percent (31%) of people with disabilities report insufficient transportation compared to 13 percent of the general population (AAPD, 2012).

• Fifty-percent (50%) of unemployed - barrier to employment. Lack of education or training, & lack of transportation (BLS, 2012).

• People with disabilities are 40 percent of 15 million in US who have difficulties getting the transportation they need (NCD, 2013).

• Individuals who ride public transportation instead of driving can save $9,798 annually (APTA, 2013).
Trend 1

• Ladders of Opportunity
  – Focus on economic independence and self-sufficiency
  – Recognition that school experience as step on the ladder to future
  – Consideration of transportation as means to facilitate access & opportunity
Trend 2

- Inclusive Practice
  - In the classroom
  - In the community
  - In school transport
Trend 3

• Focus on Professional Competency
  – Operator-driver entry skills
  – Professional development and continued mastery
  – Collaboration across school & community
Trend 4

• Reduction in Resources
  – Increase in resource sharing across school, communities, and public transport
  – Enhanced blending of traditional and non-traditional funding sources
  – Heightened accountability and performance measurement
Why does Transportation Continue to be a Barrier toward Community Success?

- Students lack knowledge and skills
- Students are fearful
- Families are fearful
- Teachers/Service providers are fearful
- Lack of connections with public transportation
- Lack of transportation options
- Inconvenience of transportation options
- Cost of transportation
Strategies to Address...

Knowledge Gaps
- Transportation
- Education & Travel
- Instruction

Fear
- Experience Instruction
- Peer-mentoring
- Service-learning

Limited Connections
- Mobility Management
- Forums
- Fairs

Limited Services
- Coordinated Transportation
- planning
Creating Options for People with Disabilities through Transportation Education

OPTIONS
- Fixed route
- Paratransit
- Hybrid
- Shared ride
- Shared vehicle
- Volunteer driver
- Other

Mobility-Travel Assessment
Skill Development
Travel Instruction & Training
Continuous Assessment
College Careers
Community living
Transportation education creates a culture, accompanied by a coordinated set of practices, to connect students, families, educators, service providers, pupil transporters, and public transportation professionals to ensure students have knowledge, access, and choice regarding a continuum of accessible transportation options across grade levels, and especially as they transition from school to postsecondary education, employment, and independent living.
Building an Accessible Transportation Continuum for Youth with Disabilities to Support Transition

Its About Connecting

Interconnected Systems and People

Students & Families

Educators
Service Providers (UCEDDs)
Vocational Rehabilitation
Workforce Development

Safe Routes to Schools

Pupil Transportation
K12
Campus Transportation
Higher Education

Public Transportation

www.cec.sped.org
http://www.dcdt.org/
http://www.rehabnetwork.org
www.aucd.org
www.aaidd.org

http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/

http://www.napt.org/
www.nasdpts.org
http://tsdconference.com/
www.ahead.org

http://www.apta.com/
www.ctaa.org
Align Transportation Education With….

College and Career Readiness

Ready by 21 Insulated Pipeline

Transportation, Health, Mental Health, Housing, Financial
ECD & Child Care Providers
After-School Programs
Civic, Social, Work Opportunities
Social & Strategic Supports & Coaching
Placement

Early Childhood  K-12 System  Post-Secondary  Work & Career

Families  Peers  Community Members

http://www.readyby21.org/
Building a Continuum of Transportation Education

District-Wide Transportation Education
- Provide professional development to educators around accessible transportation supports
- Engage families & students in transportation ed in early grades
- Integrate transportation content across grade levels and curriculum (ELA, Math, geography, etc.)
- Rely on transit for community-based experiences
  - Invite transit into schools and programs
- Establish linkages across educators, pupil transportation and public transportation;
  Provide travel instruction and orientation

Focused Transportation Assessments & Education
- Travel Training Assessments
- OT/PT Behavioral assessment
- Travel Instruction - Familiarization

Intense Services
- Travel Training
- Paratransit eligibility
- OT/PT/Behavioral Interventions

Moving up the Tiers
- Fewer numbers of students
- More defined services
- Greater time & resource commitment
- Specialized training and competence of providers

ESP, Shaney 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Module 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>What is transportation education?</td>
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<th>Why</th>
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<td>Why is transportation education important?</td>
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<tr>
<th>How</th>
<th>Modules 2, 3, 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>How does transportation education look in a school system?</td>
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<td>How do I engage people in the conversation on transportation education?</td>
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<td>How do I provide Travel Instruction?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Pedagogy</th>
<th>Modules 5, 6</th>
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<td>Can I align transportation education to Common Core State Standards?</td>
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<td>Can I embed transportation education in learning activities?</td>
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<td>Can transportation education be included in student IEP?</td>
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<th>Data</th>
<th>Module 7</th>
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<td>How to I track data on implementation?</td>
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<td>How does this align to in-school and post-school outcomes?</td>
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<td>How does this align to state and federal requirements?</td>
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<th>Integrated Systems</th>
<th>Module 8</th>
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<td>Leveraging mobility management systems</td>
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<th>Resources</th>
<th>Module 9</th>
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<td>Other resources</td>
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<td>Websites</td>
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<td>Glossary</td>
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A Poll - What do you Know about Accessible Transportation in your Community?

Think about the various transportation providers in your community. What do you know about the services they provide?

1. I know the transportation providers and their services
2. I know the transportation providers, but, not much about their services
3. I don’t know much about either the transportation providers or their services and can’t wait to learn more!

**Mobility Options in Your Community.** A resource mapping tool to help you analyze the accessible transportation resources in your community [http://www.projectaction.org/Initiatives/YouthTransportation.aspx](http://www.projectaction.org/Initiatives/YouthTransportation.aspx)
## Mobility Options (sample)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Providers</th>
<th>Vehicle Access</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Cost/Fare</th>
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| Metro Transit              | 100%           | Everyone                                        | 5:00 AM – 7:30 PM Mon/Fri  
10:00 AM – 4:30 PM weekends  
For specific routes in the county | $.50 - $1.50               |
| Metro Access               | 100%           | People with disabilities unable to use Metro Transit | 5:30 AM – 7:30 PM Mon/Fri  
10:00 AM – 4:30 PM weekends  
Anywhere within the county | $1.00                     |
| Yellow Cab                 | 0%             | General public                                   | 24 hours/7 days a week                                                       | Based on length of trip  
Average cost $12.00         |
| County Senior Bus          | 50%            | People 65 and older                              | 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM Mon/Sat                                                | $2.50                     |
| Easter Seals Vans          | 100%           | Priority for People receiving ES services  
Remaining seats available to people in partner disability programs | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Mon/Fri  
No weekends                   | Free                      |
| Good Faith Church Van      | 0%             | People attending services and activities of the church | Before and after scheduled events | Free                      |
| Volunteer Veterans Association | 50%            | Veterans with disabilities                       | On demand                                                                    | Free                      |
# Mobility Options in your Community Activity

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Here are some Ideas….Strategies to Integrate Accessible Transportation and Transition Services

• Engage families, students, community service providers, and – hold a transportation summit
  – Invite students who use transit, businesses, Voc Rehab
• Conduct resource mapping of transportation resources & travel training services – shared services (church, school, business)
• Connect with transit organizations and mobility management systems
  – Federal Untied We Ride – www.unitedweride.gov
• Contribute to IEP goals around accessible transportation
• Invite transit professionals into events
Strategies to Integrate Accessible Transportation and Transition Services

- Use & visit transit – field trips
- Embed transportation content into curriculum and instruction
- Look for grant opportunities to focus on accessible transportation
- Connect with local teacher education and rehabilitation preparation programs
- Integrate transportation content into professional development
- Understand travel instruction and its components
- Consider offering travel instruction services
  - Partner with human services organizations, transit agencies, State agencies
Yellow School Buses as the First Step

- Relationships with Pupil Transportation (National Association for Pupil Transportation [www.napt.org](http://www.napt.org) and National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services [http://www.nasdpts.org/](http://www.nasdpts.org/))
  - Simulate public buses
    - Establish fare cards
    - Use public transit signage
    - Invite public transit drivers on school grounds
    - Develop schedules and route maps
    - Provide students/clients computer route maps
    - Mimic driver alert systems on buses
    - Replicate social variance on bus
Engaging Students

• Students are critical informants to transportation education
  – Integrate transportation content into academic standards and curriculum (Module 5) will help students become more involved in transportation content
  – Provide students with opportunities to express their preferences and interests
  – Use tools, such as the social and sensory scans, can help engage students
  – Assist students to develop a self-advocacy plan - teaches self-determination
Engaging Adults

• Provide opportunities for active decision-making about transportation options
• Involve in coordinated transportation planning
• Create sustained forums for dialogue and exchange
Youth and Adults with ID/DD

- Travel orientation and familiarization important components
- Universal Design for Learning - Use of picture tools and audio supports
- Flip cameras – route mapping
- Smart phone technology as cues for students on transit
- Buddy system or peer mentoring
- Mnemonics
- Reassessment is critical
- Raise expectations!

ESPA You Can Ride Publication
http://www.projectaction.org/resourcespublications
Engage Transportation Stakeholders

• Invite pupil transportation professionals to your meetings, event, IEPs.
  – National Association for Pupil Transportation
    www.napt.org

• Organize events to address a continuum of transportation – across education, pupil transportation, and community transportation

• Hold community forums with public transit providers
  – American Public Transportation Association – www.apta.org
  – Community transportation Association – www.ctaa.org
Travel Instruction

- Travel instruction is the array, continuum, or family of services - assure comprehensive program
  - Travel orientation
  - Travel familiarization
  - Travel training

Association on Travel Instruction
Association on Travel Instruction (ATI) - http://www.travelinstruction.org/index.html
Leverage Resources through Mobility Management
Engage Stakeholders
What Services Can be Included in Mobility Management Systems

- Fixed route – bus, rail, trolley
- Shared vehicle – such as Zip Car
- Shared ride – ride boards, slug lines
- Feeder systems
- Volunteer driver programs
- Taxi’s
- Paratransit – door to door
  - Not inclusive
  - Expensive
  - Unreliable
Specific Strategies...

• Provide opportunities to participate in advisory groups – meetings in accessible – convenient locations

• Develop cultures that welcome a diverse range of perspectives through accessible meeting venues, by varying meeting times, and using materials in multiple formats

• Solicit input regarding the accessibility of varying media and technology platforms
Engaging Stakeholders

- Notices in local newspapers
- Notices on local radio stations
- Posters at local grocery stores, hairdressers, drug stores, and other businesses frequented by older adults in their neighborhoods
- Displays set up in local shopping malls
- Newsletters or flyers placed in grocery bags
Message

• Get involved in your community coordinated transportation planning and mobility management system
Promoting Transportation Education & Travel Instruction – Be Engaged!

- Join the accessible transportation for students (ATS) online community- [http://www.espa-ncst.communityzero.com/ats](http://www.espa-ncst.communityzero.com/ats)
- Sign up to receive all of ESPA notifications [www.projectaction.org](http://www.projectaction.org)
- Use Project ACTION tools and materials [http://www.projectaction.org/Initiatives/YouthTransportation.aspx](http://www.projectaction.org/Initiatives/YouthTransportation.aspx)
- Attend online **Webinars** – forming partnerships, advocacy, etc.
- Collaborate across disciplines
  - Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Division on Career Development & Transition, National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services
"C'MON, MR. WILSON! WE CAN'T DO ANY FOLLOWING UNTIL YOU DO SOME LEADING!"
Share Your Successes!
Resources

- ESPA General resources to support accessible transportation
  - www.projectaction.org
- ES Resources Related to Supports for Student Transition
- ESPA Mobility Management Resources and Online Community
  - http://www.projectaction.org/ResourcesPublications/MobilityManagement.aspx
- National Center for Mobility Management
  - www.nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org
- Strengthening Inclusive Partnerships
  - www.transitplanning4all.org
- National Center for Senior Transportation
  - http://seniortransportation.net/
- National Rural Transit Assistance Program
  - http://webbuilder.nationalrtap.org/
Thank You!

Judy Shanley, Ph.D.,
jshanley@easterseals.com
The Power of Mobility & Transportation

Transportation is a non separable part of any society. Advances in transportation has made possible changes in the way of living and the way in which societies are organized and therefore have a great influence in the development of civilizations.

The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), 2006
http://www.cdeep.iitb.ac.in/nptel/Civil%20Engineering/Transportation%20Engg%201/03-Ltexhtml/nptel_ceTEI_L03.pdf
What are You Doing?

- Do you integrate transportation content into your services?
- Do you understand the range of transportation options in your community?
- Do you work with transportation professionals?
- What about relationships with public transportation?
- Do you collect data regarding post-school outcomes and transportation?