

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Study of Programs for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Request: This report is shared for information.

Strategic Plan Reference:

Theme: Student Interest and Access

Goal 1: Increase the percentage of North Carolinians, particularly within underserved populations, pursuing and easily accessing education or training through North Carolina Community Colleges.

- Objective 1.3: Identify and reduce access barriers for all prospective students, particularly among underserved populations

Background: In July 2019, the State Board approved up to \$25,000 from the State Board Reserve to fund a study of college programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The System Office provided an update to the Board at its planning meeting in September 2019, and formally engaged with Cansler Collaborative Resources, Inc. in October 2019 for the study.

Cansler Collaborative Resources has completed its research and review and will present the attached preliminary findings and recommendations to the Board for feedback. The final report will be provided to the Board at its August 2020 meeting.

Contact:

Andrea Poole

Vice President of Strategic Initiatives

Providing Quality Opportunities to Individuals with Intellectual & Other Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in North Carolina's Community College System

Request for Feedback and Presentation of Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

State Board of Community Colleges

July 17, 2020



Tara Larson, Vice President
Cansler Collaborative Resources, Inc. (CCR)

Project Overview

- The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) engaged Cansler Collaborative Resources, Inc. (CCR) to review current NCCCS services and activities offered for individuals with an intellectual disability and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) to determine ways NCCCS can enhance opportunities and supports for students in order to secured competitive, sustainable employment after graduation.
- The strategic question to be answered is: ‘What should the NCCCS do to increase the number of adults with I/DD securing sustainable employment with NC employers across the state?’

Today's Discussion With the Board

- Present to the Board a high-level overview of the project activities completed to date
- Request feedback from the Board based upon the high-level overview
- Provide additional opportunity for the Board Members to speak with CCR consultants prior to completing the final report
- Discuss next steps for the project.



Steps Taken To Date - Three Phases of the Project

- Structured interviews with a variety of stakeholders including governmental policy administrators, instructors in the NCCCS, individuals and families who utilized or wish to access services
 - 4 Focus Groups (families, individuals and college staff)
 - Over 100 participants
 - 60 plus hours of interviews
- Literature review of evidence informed and evidence-based practices and findings that address preparing individuals with I/DD gaining sustainable, competitive employment
- System mapping to illustrate how individuals gain knowledge about and enter the NCCCS for services.



Preliminary Findings

- Many of the current programs, activities and emerging initiatives in the colleges are exemplary and serve as a starting point for many of the preliminary recommendations
- Multiple themes emerged from the literature review, focus group information, and the mapping exercise related to the goals of enhancing the supports for students with I/DD and securing employment post-graduation from high school.
- Themes thus far include
 - Increase Service Array
 - Improve Access to Credential Programs
 - Improve Internal Program Coordination
 - Enhance External Agency Coordination
 - Improve Internal Organizational Supports
 - Increase Sustainable Funding

Preliminary Recommendations

- **Planning and development of educational/vocational components** that include programs which lead to a micro-credential, credential or employment outcomes which can be achieved within a year or within the accepted timeframe for funding sources.
- **Offering training and educational components** that include improving employability skills, on the job training and offering internship/apprenticeships which include real job experiences.
- **Alignment of policy and procedures** internally to the NCCCS across the various programs. In addition, policy alignment among other state agencies such as: NCCCS, NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) , NC Department of Commerce, NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI), including the Public Schools Transitional Services.
- **Increase needs assessment, marketing, and evaluation** in the context of serving a broader array of individuals with developmental and similar disabilities or learning challenges to assure adequate demand for new or existing programs.

Preliminary Recommendations

- **Expand knowledge within the NCCCS and addresses cross departmental supports** within the individual colleges that address:
 - Best practices for teaching and offering vocational opportunities for individuals with I/DD.
 - Financial & benefits counseling
 - Assistive Technology
 - Access and supports to credential & degree programs, including micro-credentials established by NCCCS
 - Strategies and practices to increase orientation and integration into the college community to the greatest extent possible.
- **Leverage and Maximize Medicaid Funding** to assist in sustainable administrative and programmatic funding to address such items as: individual and family outreach, staff training, data collection for outcomes, tuition for an individual's attendance and support for planning and development
- **Establish and Achieve a level of Funding** that supports programs or models at all fifty-eight (58) community colleges.

Short Term Next Steps

- Convene follow-up meeting with DHHS Deputy Secretary, Dave Richard and Other DHHS Leadership, to strategize and establish concrete plan of action to maximize all types of Medicaid funding:
 - Programmatic
 - Administrative
 - Outreach
 - Training
- Obtain Board Input and Feedback
- Finalize the Report
- Provide Final Report to Board in August



Questions and Comments

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