

**VR**  
Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
2016 PROJECT 10 WINTER INSTITUTE

Transition Updates

Area/Unit Offices  
Vocational Rehabilitation  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Breaking Engagement Down by Areas

AREA I: 2,421 / >7,128\*

AREA II: 3,211 / 16,731

AREA III: 3,851 / 23,564

AREA IV: 2,662 / 18,346

AREA V: 3,379 / >22,936\*

AREA VI: 5,902 / 11,750

Student Engagement Data

Responses resulted in the identification of state-wide best practices and needs and suggestions for improvement

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

VR Transition Survey Completed


**project 10** transition education network

Category	
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An increased knowledge and understanding of VR and WDA leading to increased student success</li> <li>An opportunity to problem-solve, brainstorm, and provide suggestions for students in need of networking/linkage</li> <li>An opportunity for teams to discuss ways of improving processes to reach common transition goals</li> <li>A venue to get out important information and updates to a large audience while providing an opportunity for all transition partners to hear and address misconceptions, questions, concerns immediately</li> <li>VR staff can market services while becoming more knowledgeable about community resources and community needs and opportunities</li> <li>An increased student awareness of available services</li> <li>An opportunity for community partners to provide information to assist the counselors in making a more educated decision regarding eligibility</li> <li>A point of contact regarding for IAC members</li> <li>Increased efforts between all interagency members</li> </ul>
Successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County VR roundtable discussions - addressing concerns and developing a new manner of working with VR</li> <li>Development of follow-up meetings</li> <li>Significant improvements to VR Referral Process</li> <li>Increased awareness and understanding of transition partners creating a positive perception, partnership, and collaboration of each</li> <li>Development of employment services for students as well as education and training options for VR customers</li> <li>Increased education and training for eligible students after high school</li> <li>Additional students added to supported and non-supported services monthly</li> </ul>

IAC Participation

Category	
Relationship/ Rapport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turnover</li> <li>Presence</li> <li>Consistent Message</li> <li>Effective Communication</li> <li>Reliability</li> <li>Trust</li> <li>Follow-through</li> </ul>
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to increase opportunities to include ALL school and community venues</li> <li>Begin thinking about alternative methods to reach students</li> </ul>
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas of improvement noted by both VR and SD staff</li> <li>More engagement is required from VR and SD administration</li> <li>Need to receive more referrals (including SDA)</li> <li>Missing the mark in rural areas and low socio-economic areas</li> </ul>


Trends



Category	
Areas of Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements to rapport and relationships</li> <li>Increase opportunities to deliver VR services for youth</li> <li>Common vision and willingness for improving relationships and collaboration</li> <li>Clearer understanding of programs, roles/responsibilities, policies and procedures</li> </ul>
Areas of Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequent information sharing</li> <li>Streamlined referral process that both VR and SD are vested in</li> <li>Method to track students in the VR process that both VR and SD are vested in</li> <li>Meet regularly</li> <li>VR visibility at schools</li> <li>Known and regularly updated VR and SD contacts</li> <li>Additional outreach strategies and venues</li> <li>Transition successes</li> <li>Increased support and capacity</li> </ul>
Suggestions for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streamlined referral process and means of tracking students through process</li> <li>Clear and consistent message</li> <li>Open and frequent communication</li> </ul>


Conclusions

LEA reports, survey responses, verbal feedback, and engagement data have been analyzed and used to design TA for VR staff and meeting agenda for collaborative VR/School District meetings



Information Application

- WIOA Review
- Opportunity WIOA allows for VR to deliver services to a wider range of students at an earlier age
- Best practices to increasing engagement and students' transition outcomes



VR/School District Meeting Agenda


Capacity Needs	Relationships	Outreach	Collaboration
Increase referrals	Presence	Orientations/Open House	Regular Communication
Re-allocate VR staff resources	Collegiality	Parent-Teacher Conferences	IAC Work
Increase providers	"Fabric of school"	College and Career Events	Sharing of Information
Increase services	Accountability	Informational Sessions	Engaging the Families and Community

Goals

- Leg 1 • Area 3 - November
- Leg 2 • Areas 5 and 6 - January
- Leg 3 • Area 4 - February
- Leg 4 • Area 2 - March
- Leg 5 • Area 1 - April

Schedule of Visits

- Draft a formalized VR referral process and follow-up tracking tool that are streamlined and thorough
- Draft a structured process for consistent communication, including orientations, counselor visits, and IAC meetings
- Draft a plan to improve student engagement
- Devise a method to ensure a clear understanding of how and when to access the local and state liaisons for Transition Youth TA

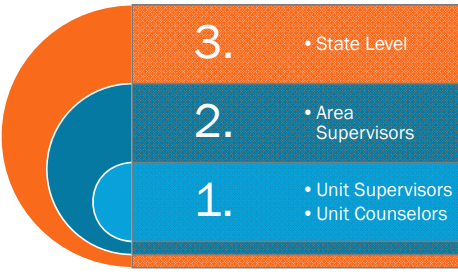


Meeting Outcomes

- Increased VR participation in Interagency Councils
- Continued support with engagement, outreach, and collaboration efforts
- Re-evaluation of student engagement at the conclusion of visits to assess success
- Recognize and celebrate student successes
- New VR transition materials

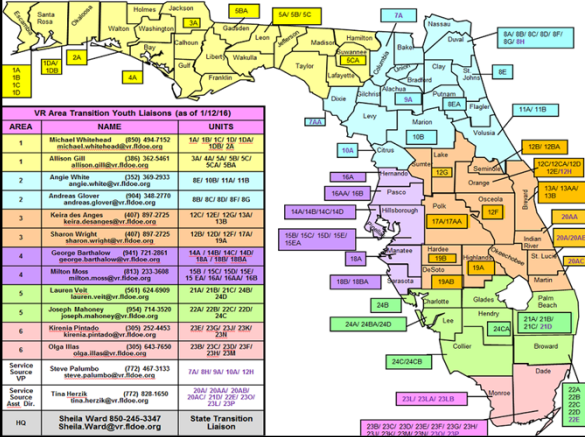


What's to Come



- 3. State Level
- 2. Area Supervisors
- 1. Unit Supervisors  
Unit Counselors

VR Transition Youth Liaisons



AREA	NAME	CONTACT	UNITS
1	Michael Whitehead	(850) 484-7152 michael.whitehead@vr.fl.gov	1A / 1B / 1C / 1D / 1E / 1F / 1G / 1H
1	Allison Gill	(850) 362-5451 allison.gill@vr.fl.gov	3A / 4A / 5A / 6A / 7A / 8A / 9A
2	Angie White	(352) 369-2933 angie.white@vr.fl.gov	8E / 10B / 11A / 11B
2	Andreas Glover	(904) 348-2779 andreas.glover@vr.fl.gov	8B / 8C / 8D / 8E / 8G
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5	Joseph Mahoney	(904) 714-3520 joseph.mahoney@vr.fl.gov	22A / 22B / 22C / 22D / 24C
6	Kieria Pineda	(904) 762-4453 kieria.pineda@vr.fl.gov	23E / 23F / 23G / 23H / 23I / 23J
6	Olga Iliu	(904) 762-4453 olga.iliu@vr.fl.gov	23D / 23K / 23L / 23M / 23N / 23O
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Service Support	Tina Herold	(872) 838-1650 tina.herold@vr.fl.gov	20A / 20B / 20C / 20D / 20E / 20F / 20G / 20H / 20I
HQ	Sheila Ward	850-246-3347 Sheila.Ward@vr.fl.gov	State Transition Liaison