

What is an RTN?

- A RTN is a Regional Transition Network. Each RTN is made up of community stakeholders in the areas of employment, independent living and education.
- The purpose of an RTN is to develop a **local** and **sustainable** group focused on **employment** and **independent living** issues for youth with disabilities.
- Each RTN will create partnerships in the community that **improve employment and independent living options** for youth with disabilities.

The creation of Regional Transition Networks by MPACT Transition Mentors is an activity provided through Project STELLAR . Project STELLAR focuses on family involvement across school and adult service community systems. The project provides training and information about planning for the transition to postsecondary adult life to enable individuals with disabilities and their families to interact effectively with professionals from educational, vocational rehabilitation, and independent living systems.



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Missouri RTNs

Regional Transition Networks



Who is on a RTN?

At a minimum, the RTN must include:

- MPACT Transition Mentors
- VR Counselor from area/regional offices
- CIL staff member from area/regional office
- Individuals with disabilities

Other appropriate community members to include might be business community members, school district and regional community agencies representatives.

What will RTNs do?

- Identify current effective practices and community resources and services for transitioning youth.
- Identify barriers and gaps in services related to employment for people with disabilities.
- Create action plans for addressing the barriers and gaps.
- Work toward alleviating barriers and gaps in services through information, resources and training.
- Disseminate information about employment options and best practices in the region to families, youth with disabilities, and agencies.

When should RTNs meet?

- Meet as a group as soon as possible following identification of initial members (Projected early Fall 2009).
- Share a snack/beverage
- Get to know one another and your roles in assisting youth and young adults with transition in your region
- Review the purpose of the RTN: To develop a **local** and **sustainable** group focused on **employment** and **independent living** issues for youth with disabilities
- Determine a group facilitator and a note taker
- Identify any missing “links” and discuss strategies to include their representation in the RTN
- Discuss transition issues and community resources in your community – the GOOD as well as gaps/problems/your experiences
- Keep the discussion positive
- Determine a date for your next meeting – when you will go through process of determining gaps and barriers and creating an action plan to address them

Identifying Barriers/Gaps

- Have a discussion
- Document the issues that arise – good, bad, and otherwise
- Consolidate categories as necessary.
- Prioritize using sticky notes to vote.
- Document the information that you collect in a document. Post this document to the TM section of www.missouritransition.org regarding RTNs Barriers/Gaps.

How about some assistance?

- Transition Mentors section of www.missouritransition.org has resources and threaded discussion forums so you can get information from others.
- Email Dana Lattin dlattin@ku.edu or Karen Allan kallan@ptimpact.org
- Missouri Agency Search at www.transitioncoalition.org - in the Resources section or,
- Missouri Governor’s Council at <http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/directory/search1.shtml> .